

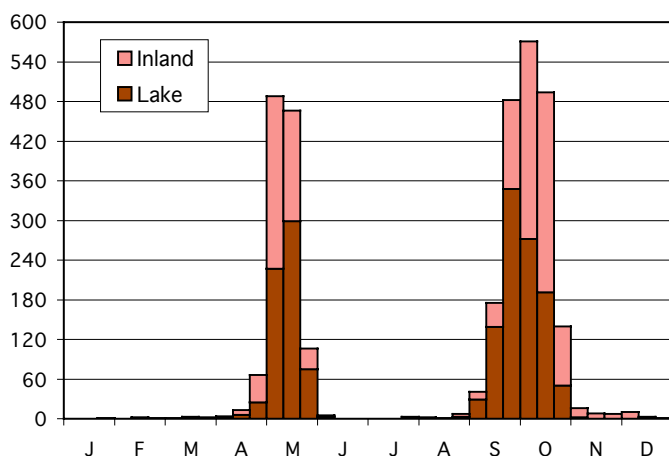
Lincoln's Sparrow

Melospiza lincolnii

Historical Information

First Published Record: Two Lincoln's Sparrows, taken near Brookville in Franklin County by F.W. Langdon and J.W. Shorten on 10 May 1879 (Butler 1898), comprise the state's earliest formal record.

Butler (1898) deemed the "Lincoln's Finch" a regular but rare migrant. Both Keller et al. (1979) and Mumford and Keller (1984) characterized this natty sparrow as an uncommon migrant, casual in winter.



Status

Physical Evidence: At least ten specimens are known in the nation's museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Academy of Sciences				2
Chicago Field Museum				2
National Museum of Natural History				2
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				2
Univ. of Michigan Museum				2
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	10	5	10	5
Central Tier	7	6	n	5
Southern Tier	8	6	n	6
Entire State	7	5	10	5

Current Status

The Lincoln's Sparrow is a Fairly Common (5) fall and spring migrant. It is Rare (7) in winter.

Occurrence

Though easily overlooked, this retiring sparrow has been recorded in at least 67 Indiana counties. It rarely forms flocks and it is quite unusual to observe more than a dozen in one day. A majority of the largest counts (see maximum count table) come from the lakefront traps where numbers accumulate along the lake's margin.

Summer Records

On five occasions spring stragglers have lingered into early June; the latest of these was 10 June.

Winter Records

Some 13 winter records exist: ten in December, one in January, and two in February. Most of these involve autumn migrants that linger into early December, but R.L. Hedge reported two that remained in downtown Indianapolis until 22 December 1999 (Keller and Keller 2000).

Lincoln's Sparrow Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
26	08-May-1997	Lakefront traps	K.J. Brock	KJB
24	11-May-1996	Dunes St Park	L.S. Hinchman	BBC
21	20-May-2003	Lakefront traps	J.K. Cassady	KJB
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
25	28-Sep-1995	Lake Co traps	J.J. McCoy	KJB
22	12-Oct-2001	Clay St. Gary	K.J. Brock	KJB
22*	27-Sep-2003	Lakefront traps	S.R. Bagby	KJB
*22 were observed on one additional occasion				

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	21-Mar-1994	2-May	12-May	22-May	10-Jun-1927	514
Central	18-Mar-1934	30-Apr	10-May	20-May	10-Jun-1963	186
South	3-Apr-1985	24-Apr	7-May	17-May	25-May-1969	67
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	10-Aug-1963	16-Sep	2-Oct	16-Oct	12-Nov-1979	675
Central	15-Aug-1964	25-Sep	11-Oct	25-Oct	30-Nov-1999	200
South	16-Sep-1958	28-Sep	10-Oct	27-Oct	17-Nov-2003	98

References Cited

Butler, A. W. (1898) *The Birds of Indiana*, Indiana Department of Geology and Natural Resources Annual Report, 22:575-1187.

Keller, C.E., S.A. Keller, and T.C. Keller (1979) *Indiana Birds and Their Haunts*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 214 pp.

Keller, Pamela and T.C. Keller (2000) Field Notes Winter 1999-2000, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 78:141-153.

Mumford, R.E. and C.E. Keller (1984) *The Birds of Indiana*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 376 pp.