

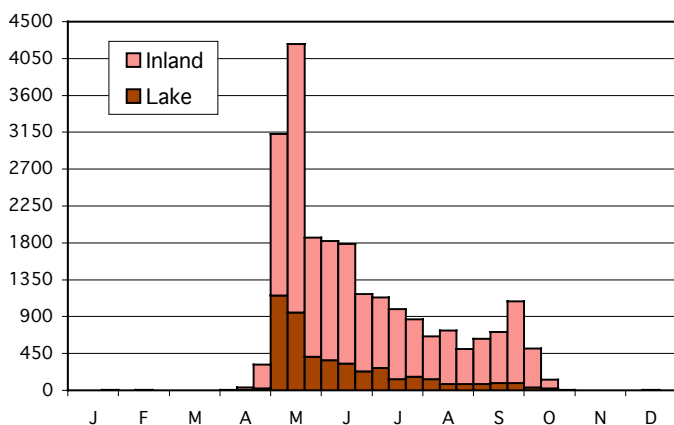
## Indigo Bunting

## *Passerina cyanea*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: According to Butler (1898) an Indigo Bunting was reported near Bloomington on 13 April 1882; this appears to constitute Indiana's earliest formal report.

Butler (1898) considered the "Indigo Bird" a common summer resident throughout Indiana. Both Keller et al. (1979) and Mumford and Keller (1984) deemed the Indigo Bunting an abundant summer resident. The latter authors also considered it casual in winter.



### Current Status

The Indigo Bunting is Very Common (3) during May longshore flights along the lakefront. It is a Common (4) summer resident and an Occasional (9) winter resident.

### Occurrence

This beautiful and widespread species has been recorded in every Indiana county. It prefers scrubby overgrown fields, forest edge, and brushy thickets, but elevated singing perches are also important. Following heavy nocturnal spring migrations, longshore flights, often exceeding 100 birds per day, occur along the lakefront (see maximum count table). As illustrated in the migration histogram, Indigo Buntings are considerably more common in spring than fall. During summer an average of 337 birds per year has been recorded over the past 20 years.

### Winter Records

Over the years some 16 Indigo Buntings have been recorded in the winter months: seven in December, six in January, and three in February. Buntings were recorded in five of the last 20 years, providing an average of 0.4 birds per year. Many of these frequented feeding stations and lingered for extended periods.

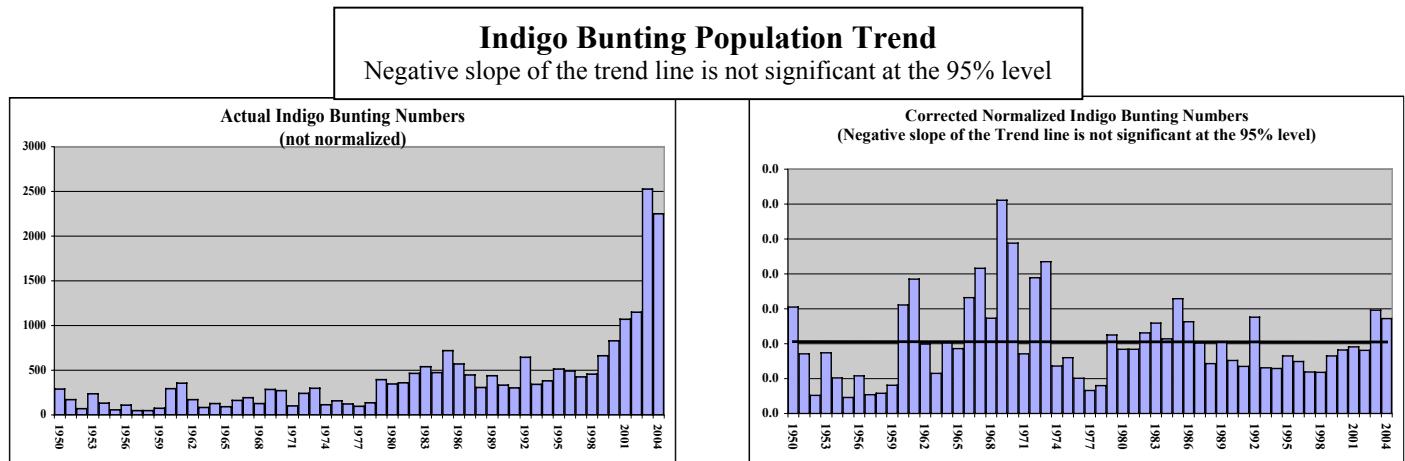
### Status

Physical Evidence: At least 31 specimens, plus eggs and nests, are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum	No.			
Carnegie Museum of Natural History	2			
Chicago Academy of Sciences	2			
Chicago Field Museum	6			
National Museum of Natural History	16*			
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory	13			
Univ. of Michigan Museum	9*			
*Includes eggs and nests				
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	10	3	4	4
Central Tier	10	4	4	4
Southern Tier	9	4	4	4
Entire State	9	3	4	4

## Population Trend

Slope of the trend line is ever so slightly negative, but is not statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



## Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) reported breeding evidence in more than 99 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks. Mumford and Keller (1984) listed eggs from 21 May through 21 August and reported a fledgling on 14 September.

## Indigo Bunting Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring/early summer				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
282*	10-May-2003	Dunes St Park	J.J. McCoy	KJB
227	30-Jun-2004	S.E. Indiana	B.K. Jackson	BKJ
200	2-Jun-2004	S.E. Indiana	B.K. Jackson	BKJ
*Longshore flight on the lakefront				
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
75	03-Sep-1972	Marion Co	???	M&K
75	23-Sep-1999	Lake Monroe	D.R. Whitehead	INB
53	19-Sep-2004	Monroe Co	L.W. Sterrenburg	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	9-Apr-1983	6-May	17-May	5-Jun	Sum. Res.	888
Central	7-Mar-1933	4-May	15-May	1-Jun	Sum. Res.	594
South	28-Mar-1999	26-Apr	12-May	29-May	Sum. Res.	422
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Sum. Res.	25-Jul	1-Sep	1-Oct	18-Nov-1985	804
Central	Sum. Res.	25-Jul	10-Sep	6-Oct	20-Nov-1998	572
South	Sum. Res.	20-Jul	17-Aug	2-Oct	26-Oct-1985	476

**References Cited**

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

Castrale, J.S., E.M. Hopkins, and C.E. Keller (1998) Atlas of breeding Birds of Indiana, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, 388 pp.

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

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

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