

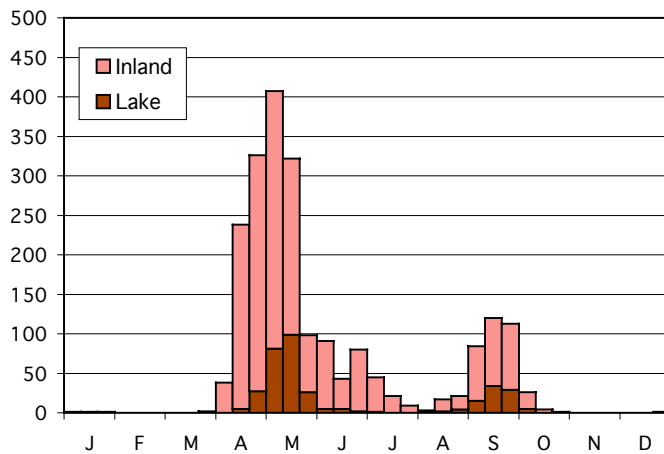
## Northern Parula

## *Parula americana*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: A Northern Parula collected in Franklin County 28 April 1878 (Mumford files), appears to constitute Indiana's earliest fully dated report.

Butler (1898) discussed recently defined new subspecies. Keller et al. (1979) considered it a rare to uncommon migrant and summer resident. Mumford and Keller (1984) deemed the Northern Parula rare to very rare in eastern Indiana and uncommon to fairly common in the west-central and southwest.

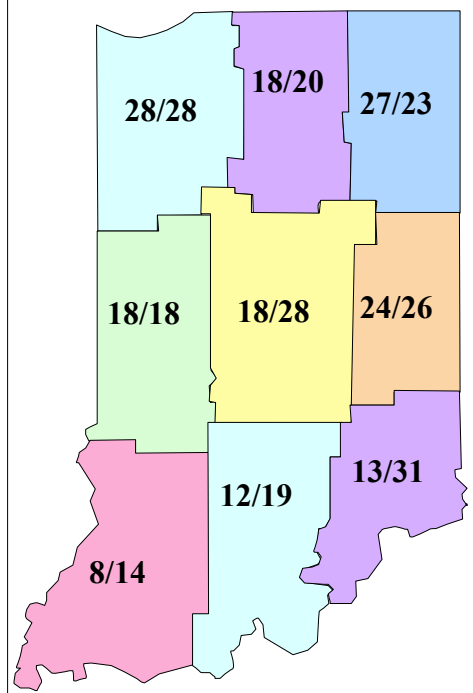


### Status

Physical Evidence: At least a dozen specimens are housed in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

| STATUS TABLE                       |     |     |     |      |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Specimens                          |     |     |     |      |
| Museum                             |     |     |     | No.  |
| National Museum of Natural History |     |     |     | 7    |
| Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory   |     |     |     | 2    |
| Milwaukee Public Museum            |     |     |     | 3    |
| 20-Year Abundance Table            |     |     |     |      |
|                                    | Win | Spr | Sum | Fall |
| Northern Tier                      | n   | 5   | 7   | 6    |
| Central Tier                       | n   | 4   | 6   | 6    |
| Southern Tier                      | 10  | 4   | 6   | 6    |
| Entire State                       | 10  | 4   | 6   | 6    |

### Spring and Fall (Spr/Fall) Abundance Rankings of the Northern Parula in Nine Indiana Regions



### Current Status

The Northern Parula is an Uncommon (6) summer resident and Common (4) spring migrant.

### Occurrence

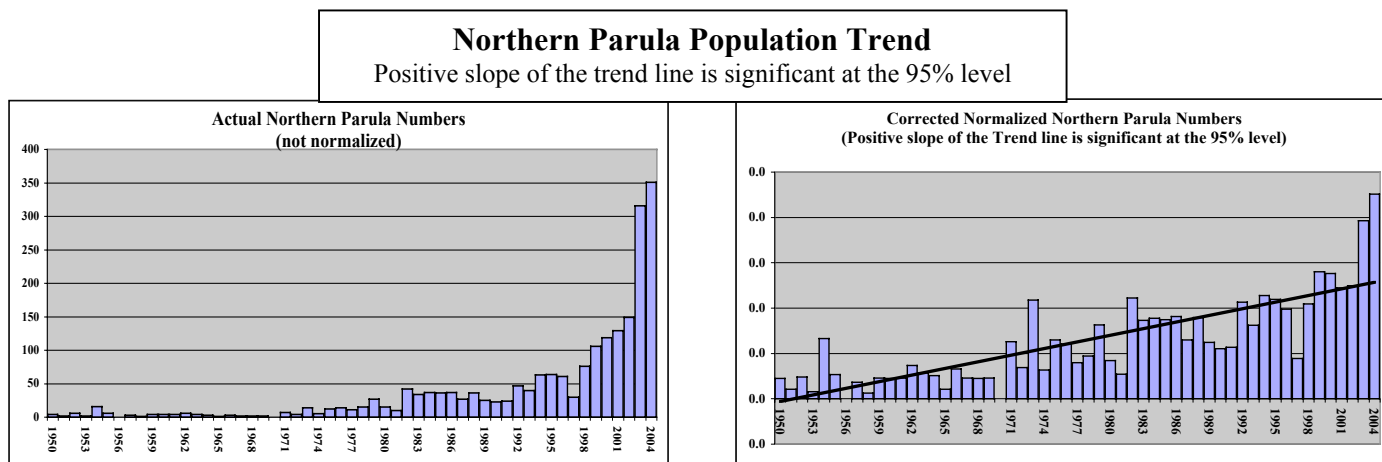
This small warbler has been recorded in at least 79 counties and is considerably more prevalent in the southern half of the state. Parulas are 3.7 times more plentiful in spring than fall (see migration histogram). For breeding they prefer trees along rivers and streams. The regional abundance-ranking map indicates that Northern Parulas are less common in the north and slightly more prevalent in the southwest. Population trend data suggest that numbers of this species have increased in the state (see Population Trend).

## Winter Record

Among the most astonishing winter-warbler records was an immature male Northern Parula that lingered at the feeding station of Rosemary Jacobs in Monroe County from 20 December 2003 through 30 January 2004 (Brock 2004). An excellent colored photograph of this individual, taken by Susan Hengeveld, appears in *North American Birds* vol. 58, p. 310.

## Population Trend

Abundance ranking data suggest that Northern Parulas have been more common over the past two decades than in former years. The 50-year population data also suggest an impressive population increase. Positive slope of the trend line is statistically significant at the 95 percent level.



## Breeding

Castrale et al. (1998) found breeding evidence in 23 percent of the state's 647 priority blocks. Virtually all of this evidence originated in southern and central tier counties and were concentrated in the western half of these areas. According to Mumford and Keller (1984) Indiana's first Northern Parula nest was not found until June 1957 when C.E. Mills located one in the Bucksbottoms of Gibson County.

| Northern Parula Data                       |             |                 |                    |      |
|--|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|------|
| Maximum Single Party Counts                |             |                 |                    |      |
| Spring/Summer                              |             |                 |                    |      |
| Number                                     | Date        | Location        | Observer           | Ref. |
| 25   | 30-Apr-2003 | Franklin Co     | W.H. Buskirk       | NKE  |
| 16   | 18-Apr-2004 | Multiple Sites* | Gary & Lisa Bowman | INB  |
| 12   | 26-Jun-1982 | Montgomery Co   | S.F. Jackson       | REM  |
| *15 in Knox County plus one at Lake Gibson |             |                 |                    |      |
| Fall                                       |             |                 |                    |      |
| Number                                     | Date        | Location        | Observer           | Ref. |
| 8  | 10-Sep-2000 | Lake Monroe     | D.R. Whitehead     | INB  |
| 7  | 17-Aug-2000 | Lake Monroe     | C.L. Wood          | INB  |
| 5  | 13-Sep-2000 | Lake Monroe     | C.L. Wood          | INB  |

| Migration Envelopes |             |        |        |        |             |         |
|---------------------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|---------|
| Spring              |             |        |        |        |             |         |
|                     | Earliest    | Arrive | Peak   | Depart | Latest      | Records |
| <b>North</b>        | 15-Apr-2000 | 28-Apr | 11-May | 25-May | Sum. Res.   | 376     |
| <b>Central</b>      | 26-Mar-1984 | 18-Apr | 4-May  | 27-May | Sum. Res.   | 216     |
| <b>South</b>        | 28-Mar-2004 | 13-Apr | 25-Apr | 20-May | Sum. Res.   | 225     |
| Fall                |             |        |        |        |             |         |
|                     | Earliest    | Arrive | Peak   | Depart | Latest      | Records |
| <b>North</b>        | Sum. Res.   | 1-Sep  | 16-Sep | 30-Sep | 15-Oct-1962 | 155     |
| <b>Central</b>      | Sum. Res.   | 11-Aug | 20-Sep | 1-Oct  | 29-Oct-2001 | 80      |
| <b>South</b>        | Sum. Res.   | 1-Sep  | 16-Sep | 28-Sep | 16-Oct-1983 | 77      |

### References Cited

Brock, K.J. (2004) Illinois and Indiana Region, Winter Season 2003-04, *N. Am. Birds* 58:226-229.

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 files: An extensive accumulation of Indiana bird data on 5x7 file cards compiled by Professor R.E. Mumford of Purdue University, West Lafayette.

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

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