

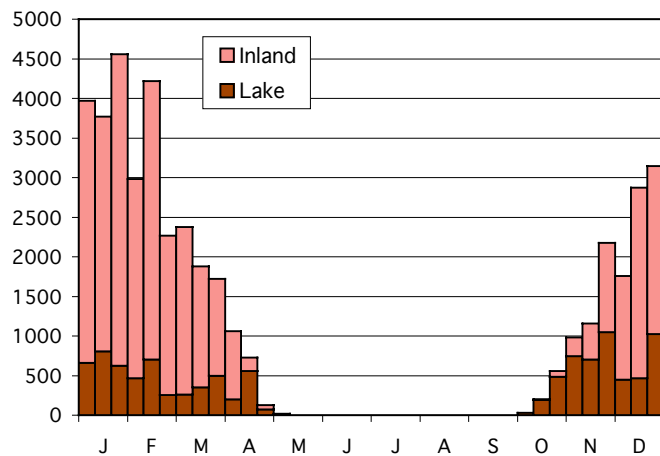
American Tree Sparrow

Spizella arborea

Historical Information

First Published Record: A specimen collected in Franklin County on 12 March 1884, provided the first physical evidence of this sparrow in Indiana; however, Butler (1890) referred to it as “an abundant winter resident,” suggesting that this pert sparrow had long been present in the state.

Butler (1898) considered the “Tree Sparrow” a common winter resident throughout Indiana. Keller et al. (1979) deemed it a common migrant and winter visitant. Mumford and Keller (1984) referred to the American Tree Sparrow as a common winter visitor across the state.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some 23 specimens are preserved in the nation’s museums, including nine in the Chicago Field Museum (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Carnegie Museum of Natural History				1
Chicago Academy of Sciences				2
Chicago Field Museum				9
National Museum of Natural History				4
Milwaukee Public Museum				1
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				4
Univ. of Michigan Museum				2
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	3	3	n	4
Central Tier	3	4	n	5
Southern Tier	3	5	n	5
Entire State	3	3	n	4

Current Status

The American Tree Sparrow is a Very Common (3) winter resident.

Occurrence

This winter visitor has been reported in at least 80 counties and ranks fifth in abundance among Indiana’s sparrows. The histogram shows no distinct migration peaks; instead fall Tree Sparrows arrive in northern Indiana in October and reach southern parts of the state in mid-November. In spring the southernmost birds depart in late March and leave the north during the first ten days of April. Stragglers occasionally linger into May. Tree Sparrows show a stronger flocking tendency than the other *Spizella* sparrows; during the winter months loose flocks, often quite large, occur throughout the state.

Extreme Records

The 1000 birds reported 25 January 1955 (see maximum count table), consisted of a single flock (Mumford files). Mumford and Keller (1984) mentioned a 12 September fall record, but provided no reference or year.

American Tree Sparrow Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Entire Year				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
1300	15 Dec 1984	L. Waveland	A.W. Bruner	IAQ
1000	25 Jan 1955	Newton Co.	R.E. Mumford	REM
1000	19-Jan-1997	Muscatatuck NWR	Darlana Graham	NKE
901	1-Jan-1999	Newton Co.	K.J. Brock	KJB
800	16-Feb-2004	Multiple sites	Don Gorney	INB
543	15-Feb-2004	Newton Co	E.M. Hopkins	INB

Migration Envelopes						
Winter						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	20-Sep-1949	22-Oct	Win. Res.	11-Apr	13-May-1996	1652
Central	6-Oct-1983	12-Nov	Win. Res.	21-Mar	10-May-1986	679
South	18-Oct-1985	16-Nov	Win. Res.	15-Mar	11-May-1990	680

References Cited

Butler, A. W. (1890) The Birds of Indiana, Appendix to *Transactions of the Indiana Horticultural Society for 1890* (available on the web).

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.

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.