

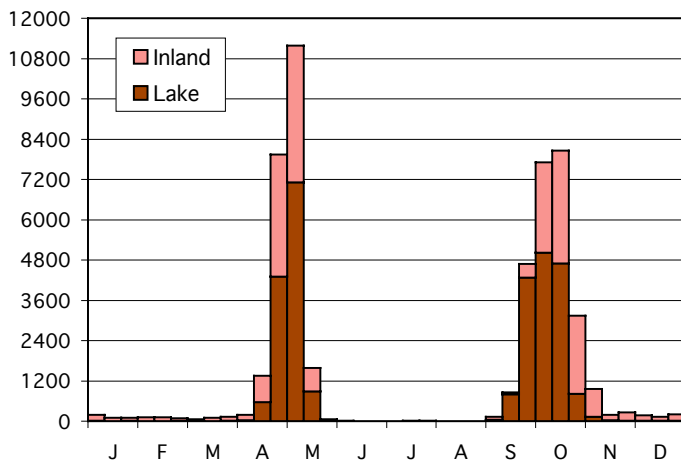
White-throated Sparrow

Zonotrichia albicollis

Historical Information

First Published Record: A 12 October 1878 record from Carroll County (Mumford files) appears to constitute the state's earliest formal White-throated Sparrow report.

Butler (1898) considered the White-throated Sparrow a very abundant migrant. Keller et al. (1979) also described it as an abundant migrant, but added that it was uncommon (south), fairly common (central), and rare (north) in winter. Mumford and Keller (1984) deemed this sparrow a common to abundant migrant.



Status

Physical Evidence: Some 25 specimens are preserved in museums (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and J.B. Dunning unpublished computer list).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				1
Chicago Field Museum				6
National Museum of Natural History				4
Purdue Univ. Wildlife Laboratory				9
Univ. of Michigan Museum				4
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	6	3	8	3
Central Tier	5	3	9	3
Southern Tier	5	4	9	4
Entire State	5	3	8	3

Current Status

The White-throated Sparrow is a Very Common (3) migrant and a Fairly Common (5) winter resident.

Occurrence

This skillful songster is among the state's most common sparrows, ranking fourth among Indiana's sparrows (see Sparrow Overview). It has been recorded in at least 86 counties and has, no doubt, occurred in the remaining six.

Summer Records

Over the past 20 years summer White-throated Sparrows have been reported in seven years, providing an average of 0.6 birds per summer. Actually, all seven of these summer records occurred after 1995 (i.e., in the last decade). Eight of the 17 records in June were recorded during the first week of that month, and likely represent tardy spring migrants. However, 21 records, including 14 banding reports, have occurred in July. A majority of the July records occurred in the northern tier, but one was banded by Ken Burton in Big Oaks N.W.R. 4 July 2004 (IN-BIRD).

Winter Records

Winter White-throated Sparrows have been recorded annually in the state over the past two decades with a mean count of 39.5 per year.

Extreme Records

The state's all-time maximum count of 1430 (see table) included 800 at the Hammond Lakefront Sanctuary, 300 at Forsythe Park, 300 at Beverly Shores, and 30 at Whiting Park, which were recorded by J.J. McCoy, Brad Etter, and Ed Powers following a major fallout (Brock records).

White-throated Sparrow Data				
Maximum Single Party Counts				
Spring				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
725	01-May-2003	Lakefront traps	J.K. Cassady	KJB
550	29-Apr-2004	Lakefront traps	J.J. McCoy	INB
370	08-May-1997	Lakefront	K.J. Brock	KJB
Fall				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
1430*	15-Oct-2000	Lakefront traps	J.J. McCoy	JMc
800	28-Sep-1928	N. Lake Co	D.H. Boyd	DBo
620	15-Oct-2003	Lake Co traps	C.A. Marsh	INB
*See Extreme Records for exact locations				

Migration Envelopes						
Spring						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	Win. Res.	19-Apr	2-May	13-May	7-Jun-1997	1141
Central	Win. Res.	15-Apr	30-Apr	11-May	8-Jun-1978	659
South	Win. Res.	23-Mar	25-Apr	9-May	5-Jun-1951	296
Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	17-Jul-1948	21-Sep	7-Oct	26-Oct	Win. Res.	1358
Central	27-Jul-1978	6-Oct	20-Oct	10-Nov	Win. Res.	892
South	25-Jul-1996	5-Oct	21-Oct	11-Nov	Win. Res.	284

References Cited

Brock records, Unpublished field notes and seasonal summaries compiled by K.J. Brock.

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

IN-BIRD, a Listserve dealing with Indiana birds developed and maintained by P.W. Kelly. The records are archived at: <http://listserv.indiana.edu/archives/in-bird-1.html>

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.