

Mark Vaughan

Photos by Mark Vaughan unless indicated. Produced by Mark Vaughan with the help of Tatziana Wachter.
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Birds captioned in red are uncommon in Chicago

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Rapid Color Guide # 881 version 2 08/2017



1 American Tree Sparrow
Spizella arborea
EMBERIZIDAE
Preferred Habitat: Weedy edges of woods, weedy fields, sometimes yard feeders.
Seasonal: Late-October to mid-April
Field Marks: Dark central spot on breast, bi-colored bill and mostly rufous crown



2 Chipping Sparrow
Spizella passerina
EMBERIZIDAE
Preferred Habitat: Lawn-like areas with trees or thickets. Golf courses, cemeteries, rural yards and edges of woods.
Seasonal: Mid-April to late-September
Field Marks: Dark eye-line, rufous crown and unstreaked whitish gray breast



3 Clay-colored Sparrow
Spizella pallida
EMBERIZIDAE
Preferred Habitat: Lawn front parks, in shrubs, thickets, brush in and near fields.
Seasonal: Late-April to late-May and mid-September to mid-October
Field Marks: Strong dark "mustache", gray nape and bright buffy breast



Jackie Lentz Bowman

4 Field Sparrow
Spizella pusilla
EMBERIZIDAE
Preferred Habitat: Brambles, thickets, brush in and near weedy or grassy fields.
Seasonal: Early-April to late-September
Field Marks: White eye-ring, pinkish bill, rufous & gray overall and rufous & gray crown



5 Fox Sparrow
Passerella iliaca
EMBERIZIDAE
Preferred Habitat: Woodland thickets, wood edges, & in brushy or weedy fields.
Seasonal: Mid-March to mid-April and early-October to mid-November
Field Marks: Bright rufous streaks radiate from central breast blotch, rufous & gray head and bright rufous wings & tail



6 Grasshopper Sparrow
Ammodramus savannarum
EMBERIZIDAE
Preferred Habitat: Fallow or grassy fields, lake front parks during migration.
Seasonal: Mid-April to late-August
Field Marks: Large bill, buffy breast & throat, complete eye-ring and rufous, black & gray back



Jackie Lentz Bowman

7 Harris Sparrow
Zonotrichia querula
EMBERIZIDAE
Preferred Habitat: Thickets, hedgerows, and woodland edges, lake front parks.
Seasonal: Spotty early in year and mid-September to late-October
Field Marks: Pink bill, black bib, mostly white underside and gray head



Chuck Tuttle

8 Henslow's Sparrow
Ammodramus henslowii
EMBERIZIDAE
Preferred Habitat: Open fields and meadows with grass mixed with weeds. Lake front parks during migration.
Seasonal: Mid-April to late-August
Field Marks: Large bill, white eye-ring, narrow streaks on breast and rufous wings & back



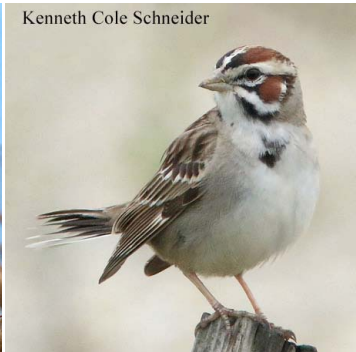
John Picken

9 House Sparrow (male)
Passer domesticus
PASSERIDAE
Comment: Invasive species and actually a Finch not a sparrow despite the name.
Preferred Habitat: Areas with human habitation.
Seasonal: Year-round resident
Field Marks: Stout yellowish-gray bill, black bib on throat & chest, gray head & belly and rufous neck



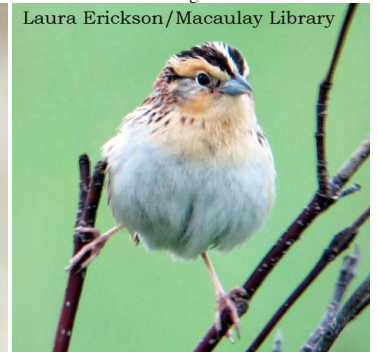
John Picken

10 House Sparrow (female)
Passer domesticus
PASSERIDAE
Comment: Invasive species and actually a Finch not a sparrow despite the name.
Preferred Habitat: Areas with human habitation.
Seasonal: Year-round resident
Field Marks: Stout yellowish-gray bill, brown throat, chest and belly. Brown head and eye line



Kenneth Cole Schneider

11 Lark Sparrow
Chondestes grammacus
EMBERIZIDAE
Preferred Habitat: Weedy fields or edges of woods with sandy soil, scattered trees and large shrubs present.
Seasonal: Late-April to early-September
Field Marks: Bold rufous, black & white face and dark spot on clean whitish breast



Laura Erickson/Macauley Library

12 LeConte's Sparrow
Ammodramus leconteii
EMBERIZIDAE
Preferred Habitat: Lake front parks, wet grass or sedge fields and fallow fields.
Seasonal: Mid-April to mid-May and mid-September to mid-October
Field Marks: Small bluish bill, distinct stripes on flanks & breast and bright buff face & breast

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13 **Lincoln's Sparrow**
Melospiza lincolnii
EMBERIZIDAE

Preferred Habitat: Wood edges, thickets, shrubs and wet bushy areas. Lake front parks during migration.
Seasonal: May and mid-September to mid-October
Field Marks: Small slender bill, buffy eye-ring, white belly, buffy breast with dark streaks and crisp dark streaks on flanks and breast



Josh Engel
14 **Nelson's Sparrow**
Ammodramus nelsoni
EMBERIZIDAE

Preferred Habitat: Inland grassy fresh water marshes and wet prairies.
Seasonal: Mid to late-May and mid-September to late-October
Field Marks: Bluish bill and bright orange face and breast. White belly with gray collar



15 **Savannah Sparrow**
Passerculus sandwichensis
EMBERIZIDAE

Preferred Habitat: Grassy fields and meadows with short grass.
Seasonal: Early-April to late-October
Field Marks: Pointed pink bill, streaked breast, yellow spot between bill & eye, strong eye-line and "mustache"



16 **Song Sparrow**
Melospiza melodia
EMBERIZIDAE

Preferred Habitat: Wood edges, thickets and in bushes that are open or semi-open.
Seasonal: Year-round resident
Field Marks: Throat stripes radiate from central breast blotch, brown & gray crown stripes and coarse broad brown streaks on breast



17 **Swamp Sparrow**
Melospiza georgiana
EMBERIZIDAE

Preferred Habitat: Marshy areas bordered with thickets and tangles. Woody edges during migration.
Seasonal: Mid-March to late-October
Field Marks: Small slender bill with yellow base, clean gray breast, rufous crown and buffy-rufous flanks



18 **Vesper Sparrow**
Poecetes gramineus
EMBERIZIDAE

Preferred Habitat: Grassy and weedy fields, fallow or cultivated fields. Prefer drier areas with bushes or hedgegroves.
Seasonal: Early-April to late-August
Field Marks: White eye-ring, uniformly streaked back, pale white jaw line and off-white belly



19 **White-crowned Sparrow**
Zonotrichia leucophrys
EMBERIZIDAE

Preferred Habitat: Fields with scattered thickets, bushes or tangles. Also, woodland edges.
Seasonal: Mid-April to mid-May and mid-September to late-October
Field Marks: Pinkish-orange bill, black and white "bike helmet" crown, plain gray underside and broad white "eyebrow"



20 **White-throated Sparrow**
Zonotrichia albicollis
EMBERIZIDAE

Preferred Habitat: Woods, edges of woods, weedy fields, thickets. Lake front during migration.
Seasonal: Mid-September to mid-May
Field Marks: Dark bill, white throat, bright white "eyebrow," yellow spot between bill and eye

Seasonal data is based on *Chicago Area Birds* by Steven Mlodinow.

Determining Commonness is based on information from Sibley's, Stokes and Mlodinow references. Sparrows captioned in red are considered uncommon while those in black are considered more common. A certain sparrow can be seasonally common for a short period of time and not present the remainder of the year. Others, like the House Sparrow, are common throughout the year.

A special thanks to Matthew A. Young, Collection Management, Leader Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Also, Tatziana Wachter, Conservation Ecologist and Consultant, for preparing the Rapid Color Guides at The Field Museum. Finally, thanks to Jaculin Bowman, Chuck Tuttle, John Picken, Kenneth Cole Schneider and Josh Engel for sharing some of their fantastic images.

References:

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The Sibley Field Guide to Birds by David Allen Sibley, 2003, published by Alfred A. Knopf.
Sparrows of the United States and Canada. The Photographic Guide by David Beadle and James Rising, 2002, Princeton University Press.
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