

Grassland Birds of Arcadia Dunes



Grasshopper Sparrow

Special Concern Species

ID: 5"L, Big-headed, short-tailed, with flat forehead. Crown has central white stripe bordered by thick dark stripes, otherwise plain buff face and chest.

🎵 insect-like buzz, preceded by 1-3 thin whistled notes

Habitat: Grasslands with little or no shrubs or tree cover. Short height grass, medium litter depth. Nests on the ground.



Savannah Sparrow

ID: 5.5"L, Heavily streaked on chest; strong face pattern; narrow white central crown stripe; often shows yellow in front of eye

🎵 short notes before and after trill, *sip sip sip screeeeeeee, sip*

Habitat: Open fields, meadows, marshes. Medium height grass, medium depth litter. Nests on the ground well concealed by grass or a shrub.



Vesper Sparrow

ID: 6.25"L, White outer tail feathers conspicuous in flight; white eye ring; heavy dark outline of cheek patch

🎵 2 pairs of long notes, followed by shorter notes and slurred trills. *Here-here there-there, everybody-down-the-hill*

Habitat: Open prairies and farm fields. Short height grass, low litter depth. Nests in a scrape on the ground.



Field Sparrow

ID: 5.75"L, Pink bill; gray face and throat; rusty crown with gray central stripe; white eye-ring; unstreaked underparts

🎵 accelerating, like a bouncing ping-pong ball

Habitat: Weedy, overgrown fields with scattered shrubs. Prefers high litter depth. Nests on ground, often sheltered by a shrub or sapling.



Upland Sandpiper

ID: 11.5"L, Small headed sandpiper, larger than a killdeer; perches on fenceposts & poles

🎵 song is an airy "wolf-whistle", alarm call *quip-ip-ip*

Habitat: Large size grasslands. Short height grass, medium litter depth. Nests in dense grass, usually with grass arching over the top. Precocial young leave the nest after last egg hatches.



Eastern Meadowlark

ID: 9.5"L, Bright yellow underparts with black breast-band; bold crown stripes

🎵 song is 2 clear slurred whistles, musical and pulled out: *tee-yah, tee-yair* (last notes descending); call is a rasping buzzy *dzrrt*; also a guttural chatter

Habitat: Grassy meadows and pastures. Medium height grass.



Song Sparrow

ID: 6.25"L, Heavily breast streaks converge into a large central spot; reddish-brown wings and tail; pumps its tail as it flies.

🎵 song has 3-4 bright, distinctive introductory notes, such as *sweet, sweet, sweet* followed by buzzy *toWEEE* then a short, descending trill

Habitat: Brushy areas and edges, marshes, roadsides. Nests on the ground or low in shrub, small tree.



Clay-colored Sparrow

ID: 5.5"L, Pale, unstreaked breast; brown "cheek" edged with darker brown; brown crown with pale central stripe; white "eyebrow" and white throat

🎵 2-5 slow, low-pitched, insect-like buzzes

Habitat: Brushy open areas with scattered bushes and trees



Horned Lark

ID: 7.5"L, Black crest & ear marks, tiny black horns (hard to see), face varies white to yellow

♪ weak tinkling or twittering

Habitat: Breeds in open areas, including pastures, croplands, *sparsely vegetated* fields and weedy meadows.



Killdeer

ID: 10.5"L, Two black chest bands, white collar

♪ loud, distinctive *kill-dee kill-deer* and variations

Habitat: Open fields, grasslands, sandy beaches, lakeshores. Nests on open ground in shallow, usually unlined depression. Convincing broken-wing display. Precocial birds: the young hatch fluffy and ready to run.

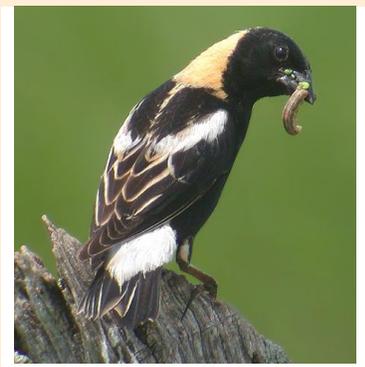


Eastern Kingbird

ID: 8.5"L, dark gray to black upperparts; white underparts; white-tipped tail

♪ call is a quick, loud, chattering *kit-kit-kitter-kitter*; also a buzzy *dzee-dzee-dzee*

Habitat: Rural fields with scattered trees and hedgerows. Nests on horizontal limb of a tree or shrub. Flycatches aerial insects.



Bobolink

ID: 7"L, black underside, cream-colored nape, white on upper side of breeding male. Female is sparrow-like.

♪ rich, rapid bubbling, often while flying

Habitat: Open prairies and farm fields. Medium height grass, medium litter depth.



Northern Harrier

Special Concern Species

ID: White rump, black wing tips, known by low flight

♪ generally quiet except near the nest and during courtship

Habitat: Flies low over fields and marshes hunting live prey. Nests on the ground; usually in grass, cattails, or tall vegetation. Eats small mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and some invertebrates.



American Kestrel

ID: 7.5-8"L, 2 distinctive facial stripes. Hovering, buoyant flight.

♪ loud, often repeated, shrill *killy-killy-killy* when excited

Habitat: Hunts in open fields, forest edges, grassland, and cropland. Swoops down from a perch or from hovering flight. Eats mostly insects and some small rodents, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Nests in a tree cavity or nest box.



Eastern Bluebird

ID: Chestnut red breast; white belly. Male has deep blue upperparts. Female paler colors.

♪ song is a rich, warbling, *turr-turr-lee, turr-lee*

Habitat: Cropland fence lines, meadows, forest clearings. Nests in abandoned woodpecker cavity, natural cavity or nest box. Swoops from a perch to pursue flying insects; also forages on ground for invertebrates.



American Goldfinch

ID: Breeding male: black "cap", wings, and tail; bright yellow body; white wing bars. Non-breeding male: olive brown back. Female: yellow-green upperparts and belly; yellow throat and breast.

♪ song is a long, varied series of trills, twitters, warbles

Habitat: Weedy fields, woodland edges, meadows, parks, gardens. Nests in tree or shrub.

Edge Species and Other Avian Visitors American Crow, Blue Jay, Indigo Bunting, Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Brown-headed Cowbird, Black-billed & Yellow-billed Cuckoos, House Wren, European Starling, Warbling Vireo, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, American Goldfinch, Red-tailed Hawk, Cedar Waxwing, Sandhill Crane, Canada Goose, Turkey Vulture, Mourning Dove, Eastern Phoebe, Chipping Sparrow

Visit During Migration Lincoln Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow