

Chipping Sparrow

Spizella passerine

General Information:

-Its bold chestnut cap, bordered by a long white superciliary stripe during breeding season helps identify this tiny sparrow. Named for its song and call, it sings from its high perch during the day, and sometimes even at night, or calls as it forages for food in trees, gardens, and backyard. One of the tamest sparrows, it will take food from human hands.

Song:

-A repetitive series of trilled chip notes, *chip-chip-chip-chip-chip-chip*.

Behavior:

-Solitary or in pairs, and in small family flocks after the breeding season, it may join mixed-species foraging flocks in the winter. It forages on the ground and picks off foliage. It eats seeds, insect, their caterpillars, and spiders.



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Breeding:

-Monogamous and a solitary nester. A few males are polygamous.

Nesting:

-Incubation 11-14 days by the female. The 2 broods per year of altricial young are brooded by the female, fed by both sexes, and stay in the nest for 8-12 days.

Population:

-Common and widespread in open mixed coniferous-deciduous forest, forest edges, gardens, lawns, and short-grass fields.

Conservation:

-A neo-tropical migrant and common host to cowbird parasitism.

Shoreline Restoration Issues:

- If you would like to create an environment friendly to the Chipping Sparrow I would stress planting Wool-Grass, Sweet Flag, Sweet Gale, Sandbar Willow, Blue Flag Iris, and Swamp Rose along the shoreline. I would then plant a nice mix of emergent aquatic vegetation in the lakebed. For trees I would choose the Red Pine, Eastern White Pine, Balsam Fir, White Spruce, Northern White Cedar, Swamp White Oak, Red Oak, Yellow Birch, Paper Birch, River Birch, and American Elm. I would then plant some Ninebark and Winterberry further inland in the buffer zone and surround them with ferns and a mixture of wildflowers.