

Song Sparrow

(Melospiza melodia)



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How to Identify:

- Song Sparrows can be found in most Idaho State Parks.
- Song Sparrows are a small brownish bird about four to six inches in length.
- A white chest with brown streaks and a central brown spot are typical.
- Wings and tail are brown.
- Long rounded tail.

Habitat:

- These sparrows live in desert areas, farm fields, along the edges of marshes and lakes, forest edges, and suburbs.
- These sparrows prefer brushy habitats, especially along streams.
- They are year-round residents in Idaho.
- Song Sparrows eat mostly seeds in winter and insects in summer.

Song Sparrows are loud singers that will sing throughout the year.

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with Scout the Fox!

Scout



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Fun Facts!

- This bird will often visit bird feeders.
- Song Sparrows have been known to nest close to houses, sometimes even in flower beds.
- Song includes three or four short clear whistles followed by a varied warble or trill.
- Some people think the song sounds a bit like: "Maids, maids, maids, put on your tea, kettle, kettle, kettle".



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Help Protect the Song Sparrow

- Populations have declined by over 30% between 1966 and 2014, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey.
- Causes of decline include habitat loss, collisions with windows, outdoor cats, and pesticides.
- Support conservation of natural areas for all wildlife.
- Minimize use of pesticides and herbicides.

COLOR ME



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ACTIVITY TIME

1. Why do you think Song Sparrows sing?

2. Song Sparrows help to spread the seeds of plants. How would this be helpful to other animals?

