Song Sparrow
(Melospiza melodia)

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 Sparrow

*(Melospiza melodia)*

**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.
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ACTIVITY TIME

1. Why do you think Song Sparrows sing?
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2. Song Sparrows help to spread the seeds of plants. How would this be helpful to other animals?
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