

SPARROWFEST checklist

In the central Texas area, 23 species of Emberizid sparrows occur annually on a regular basis, and several others occur less frequently. During our day of Sparrow Fest field trips we expect to encounter 18 or more species of native sparrows. An annotated list of central Texas sparrows and a few other birds of interest follows:

Spotted Towhee - common and widespread in winter

Eastern Towhee - very rare in winter

Canyon Towhee - uncommon; formerly regular at Flying X

Cassin's Sparrow - very rare; not likely during Sparrow Fest

Rufous-crowned Sparrow - uncommon but regular year-round

Chipping Sparrow - abundant during winter

Clay-colored Sparrow - migrant in spring and fall; unlikely in winter

Field Sparrow - common to abundant during winter

Vesper Sparrow - common to abundant in winter

Lark Sparrow - uncommon to rare in winter; numbers increase in early spring

Black-throated Sparrow - uncommon but regular at the Flying X

Lark Bunting - rare in winter, but found on 2005 Christmas Bird Count

Savannah Sparrow - abundant in winter and spring

Grasshopper Sparrow - uncommon but regular

LeConte's Sparrow - uncommon but regular in suitable habitat at Flying X, Eckhardt & others

Fox Sparrow - uncommon but regular in shinnery and woodlands

Song Sparrow - common to uncommon and widespread in brushpiles and moist, weedy areas

Lincoln's Sparrow - common in winter

Swamp Sparrow - rare to uncommon along Little Creek on Eckhardt tract & other moist areas

White-throated Sparrow - uncommon but regular in riparian areas

Harris' Sparrow - rare in winter

White-crowned Sparrow - common and widespread; often sings in winter

Dark-eyed Junco - common to abundant in juniper woodlands and riparian areas

Additional birds of interest:

Greater Roadrunner - uncommon

Wild Turkey - uncommon but regular along Cow Creek Rd.

Eastern Screech owl - uncommon but hard to find

Great Horned Owl - common but hard to see

Ladder-backed Woodpecker - common

Black Phoebe - rare

Sedge Wren - rare but regular along Little Creek on Eckhardt tract

Black-capped Vireo - not seen in winter

Golden-cheeked Warbler - not seen in winter

Pyrrhuloxia - rare

Eastern Meadowlark - common in winter, but hard to identify to species unless singing

Western Meadowlark - common to uncommon in winter

Lesser Goldfinch - uncommon in winter, but numbers increase in early spring



White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)

Photo courtesy of Byron Stone