

VESPER SPARROW (*Pooecetes gramineus*)

Order: PASSIFORMES

Species: 28-55-077

Family: EMBERIZIDAE - Buntings, Sparrows, and Allies

Distribution: Fairly common and widespread across Canada and USA from B.C. to Nova Scotia and extending north to sw N.W.T.; also south right across central U.S. plus central California to central New Mexico. Winters from Connecticut and Penns. south then west through the southern states and Gulf Coast to Baja California and Mexico.

Nest: Ground-built under dead weed stems in small depression near to small patches of bare ground, at base of grass tussocks or dirt clods. Found in alfalfa fields, previous year cornfields, seashore beach grass, sagebrush in Rockies, fields, and pastures.

Eggs: 3 to 5; cream-white, pale green-white, spotted, blotched, and scrawled with brown.

Diet: Searches busily for beetles, grasshoppers, army worms, cutworms, and moths; also plenty of weed seeds and waste grain.

Song: Two long notes, followed by two higher notes with descending trills, given sweetly and plaintively.

Size: 5 to 6.5 in. (13 to 17 cm)

