

CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella passerina*)

Order: PASSIFORMES

Species: 28-55-071

Family: EMBERIZIDAE - Buntings, Sparrows, and Allies

- Distribution: Widespread across Canada from Alaska south of the tree line to Newfoundland and south throughout most of the U.S.A. except around northern Texas and western Kansas and Oklahoma. Winters across southern U.S.A. to northern Nicaragua.
- Nest: A small cup of dead grass, weed stems, and rootlets lined with fine grasses and hairs, on limb of spruce, pine, or cedar, also in orchard trees usually up to 6 feet above the ground. Uses open grassy woodlands, forest clearings, shores of lakes, ponds, and larger streams and rivers, cottonwood groves, gardens, orchards, and farmyards.
- Eggs: Usually 4; pale blue-green, speckled, spotted, blotched and scrawled with browns, dark blue, and black.
- Diet: Mainly grass seeds and seeds of clover, ragweed, dandelion, and others; also various beetles, caterpillars, grasshoppers, bugs, ants, spiders, and wasps. Visits bird tables, even hands.
- Song: A long series of "chips" rapidly repeated to sound like a thrill all at one pitch. Sometimes sings at night.
- Size: 13 to 20 cm (5 to 5.75 inches).

