

Park rangers recommend these six popular comprehensive guides:

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS,  
EASTERN AND CENTRAL  
NORTH AMERICA  
(Roger Tory Peterson)

STOKES FIELD GUIDE TO BIRDS,  
EASTERN REGION  
(Donald and Lillian Stokes)

ALL THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA  
(The American Bird Conservancy)

FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF  
NORTH AMERICA  
(The National Geographic Society)

FOCUS GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF  
NORTH AMERICA  
(Kenn Kaufman)

THE SIBLEY GUIDE TO BIRDS  
(David Allen Sibley)

Insect repellent should contain DEET. Some experienced Florida bird watchers also recommend wearing hats to keep the sun out of the face.

One other tip from the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission is do not confront or feed wildlife, including alligators.



# Sparrows

of Lake County

Check out the Office of Parks & Trails collection of educational wildlife pamphlets:

- Butterflies of Lake County
- Florida Scrub-jay
- Greener Choices
- Hints of the Wild
- Parks & Trails Events Guide
- Sparrows of Lake County
- Wood Warblers of Lake County

To request a free copy of any of these educational publications, call 352-253-4950 or email [parksandtrails@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:parksandtrails@lakecountyfl.gov)



Lake County Office of Parks & Trails  
2401 Woodlea Road, Tavares, FL 32778

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The Lake County Office of Parks & Trails manages more than four dozen parks, preserves and boat ramps.

Lake County park rangers lead regularly scheduled nature hikes, bird & butterfly surveys and other outdoor adventures in some of these parks. In partnership with the Lake County Water Authority, Parks & Trails also schedules guided paddling adventures. For a listing of Lake County parks and events, call (352) 253-4950, e-mail [parksandtrails@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:parksandtrails@lakecountyfl.gov) or log on to [www.lakecountyfl.gov/parks](http://www.lakecountyfl.gov/parks).

For more information about sparrows or other birds, check out a field guide to birds available at many local libraries or bookstores. Information on birds is also available online at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, [www.birds.cornell.edu](http://www.birds.cornell.edu).

Bird watchers in Florida tend to bring a little more on their trips than their Northern peers. While the average temperature in Lake County is a mild 72°F, the summer months in Central Florida can be steamy.



Outside enthusiasts are always encouraged to carry sunscreen to protect skin from sunburn, insect

repellent to ward off mosquitoes and plenty of water to avoid dehydration. Sunscreen should be 15 SPF or higher and applied 20 minutes before heading out.

An educational wildlife pamphlet of the  
Lake County Department of Public  
Resources, Parks & Trails Division

**1. BACHMAN'S SPARROW**

(*Peucaea aestivalis*)

**SIZE** : 4.8-6 in.

**WEIGHT** : .7 to .8 oz.

This bird is the only sparrow endemic to the United States. It dwells in mature pine forests with grass and shrubs, hence its former name, Pine-woods Sparrow.

**2. CHIPPING SPARROW**

(*Spizella passerina*)

**SIZE** : 5-6 in.

**WEIGHT** : .4-.6oz

This is a common sparrow to inviting yards and gardens. One of the smallest sparrows, it often nests in ornamental evergreens.

**3. EASTERN TOWHEE**

(*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*)

**SIZE** : 6.8-8.2 in.

**WEIGHT** : 1.1-1.8 oz

This large sparrow is also known as the Red-eyed Towhee, though towhees in Florida and Georgia have straw-colored eyes.

**4. FIELD SPARROW**

(*Spizella pusilla*)

**SIZE** : 4.7 to 5.9 in.

**WEIGHT** : .4-.5 oz.

This sparrow is a common visitor to Florida. Its song is distinctive, but it can be missed by those who cannot hear the plaintive whistles that usually end in a high, rapid trill.

**5. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW**

(*Ammodramus savannarum*)

**SIZE** : 4-5 in.

**WEIGHT** : .5-.7 oz.

This bird's name is derived not only from its diet, but also from its insect-like song. Florida has two distinct sub-species: the migratory *Ammodramus savannarum pretensis* and the endangered endemic Florida Grasshopper Sparrow, *Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*.

**8. LINCOLN'S SPARROW**

(*Melospiza lincolni*)

**SIZE** : 5.1-5.9 in.

**WEIGHT** : .6-.7 oz.

While common, it is rarely seen or heard. These birds can be easily overlooked during migration as it moves through dense cover.



**11. SWAMP SPARROW**

(*Melospiza georgiana*)

**SIZE** : 4.7-5.5 in.

**WEIGHT** .4-.8 oz.

During the breeding season, this sparrow frequents wetlands. Its longer legs help it in wading in shallow waters.



**12. VESPER SPARROW**

(*Pooecetes gramineus*)

**SIZE** : 5.1-6.3 in

**WEIGHT** : .7-1 oz.

This "smart" sparrow is thought to learn songs from its parents and responds quickly to habitat changes.

**13. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW**

(*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)

**SIZE** : 5.9-6.3 in.

**WEIGHT** : .9-1 oz.

This distinctive sparrow features bold black and white stripes on its head.

**14. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW**

(*Zonotrichia albicollis*)

**SIZE** : 6-7 in.

**WEIGHT** : .9-1.1 oz.

This sparrow comes in two colors, white-crowned and tan-crowned, which is determined by genetic differences.



**6. HENSLOW'S SPARROW**

(*Centronyx henslowii*)

**SIZE** : 4.3-5.1 in.

**WEIGHT** .4-.5 oz.

This small grassland bird stays well concealed. In addition to its feeble song, it will often run along the ground hidden by the brush instead of flying.

**9. SAVANNAH SPARROW**

(*Passerculus sandwichensis*)

**SIZE** : 4-6 in.

**WEIGHT** : .5-1 oz.

This bird is a common winter resident in a variety of habitats throughout the state, sometimes in flocks numbering in to the low hundreds.

**7. LE CONTE'S SPARROW**

(*Ammodramus leconteii*)

**SIZE** : 4.7 in.

**WEIGHT** .4-.6 oz.

This shy sparrow is nearly impossible to flush, as it prefers to run along the ground. When it sings, the bird mounts an exposed perch.

**10. SONG SPARROW**

(*Melospiza melodia*)

**SIZE** : 4.7-6.7 in.

**WEIGHT** .7-.9oz

It can greatly vary in size and appearance in part because it is one of the most widespread North American birds. True to its name, this sparrow is a persistent singer.

