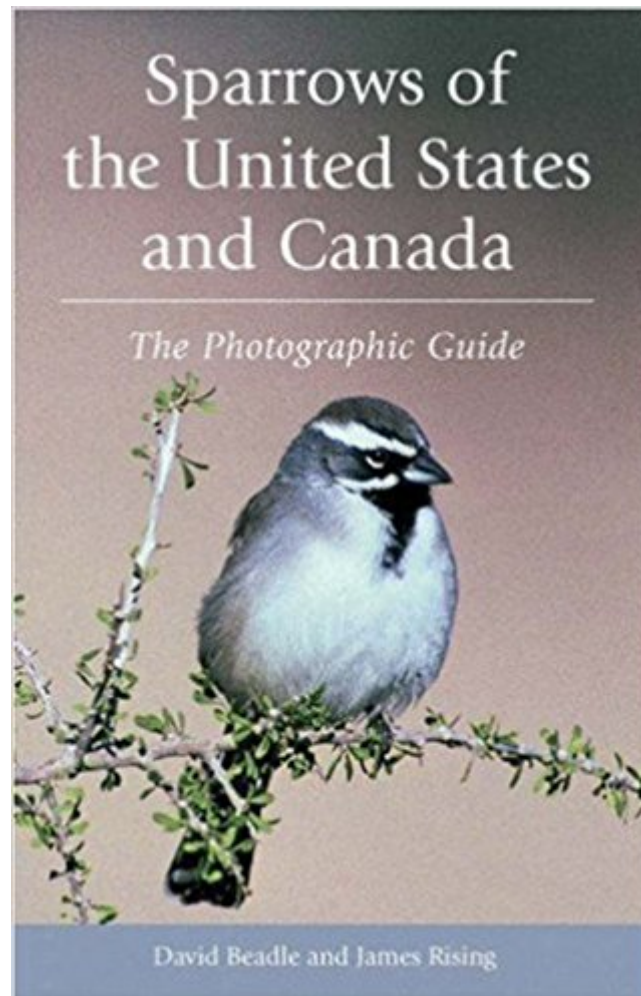




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Sparrows Of The United States And Canada: The Photographic Guide



Synopsis

This companion volume to the previous, widely acclaimed Guide to the Identification and Natural History of the Sparrows of the United States and Canada takes sparrow identification one step further. The authors have gathered a stunning selection of over 350 photographs as a basis for the identification of all 64 taxa of emberizine sparrows found in the region. Never before has such a comprehensive collection of sparrow photos been presented together in a single guide. The supporting text gives detailed information on the identification of species, sexes, ages, races, and forms of all the sparrows, towhees, juncos, buntings and longspurs, grassquits and seedeaters, as well as information on their distribution, habits, habitats, molt, and voice. Particular attention is paid to the geographic variation found in many species and to comparisons with similar and confusing species. The conservation status of those that are threatened is also given due attention. The photographs include contributions from many of America's finest bird photographers, and many were taken especially for this book. All fine portraits in themselves, they have been chosen specifically to illustrate the identification pointers described in the text. Each is captioned with full details of the photographer and the place and time at which the photo was taken. Also included are line drawings of identification details such as wing and tail feathers and beaks, as well as distribution maps. Key Features? Features 350 high quality photographs of each species, subspecies, and racial form identifiable in the field Includes line drawings of identification details such as wing and tail feathers, beaks, etc. Contains distribution maps for each species

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Customer Reviews

"[A] book that can be carried into the field with ease. This book should turn those 'little brown jobs' into interesting individuals, and is highly recommended for birders who are trying to sort out the members of this challenging family."--Wildlife Archivist

James D. Rising, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Excellent book, and if you are a birdwatcher-photographer who has difficulty separating and identifying the LBJs (Little Brown Jobs) like I am, this is an essential reference, if not the new standard reference. Well-constructed and profusely illustrated with glossy color photographs, *Sparrows Of The US And Canada* covers in marvelous detail 64 different species of sparrows, towhees, buntings, seedeaters, grassquits, longspurs, and juncos, including subspecies and regional variations. There are several pages of detailed text on each species as well as photos of the major variations and even hybrids. About the only improvement I could suggest would be an extended chapter on non-sparrow birds that are frequently mistaken for sparrows, for instance certain finches, which would help in identifying sparrows; you know, the other LBJs. The book does include a paragraph on "similar species" in each species account. On the other hand I can certainly see the point that there is no reason to expect a book about sparrows to devote a lot of space to non-sparrows. Just a suggestion.

"*Sparrows of the United States and Canada: The Photographic Guide*" by David Beadle and James Rising has proven to be an absolutely terrific addition to the three or four dozen bird books I already have. It would be great if all the various bird families had a work as excellent and useful as this devoted to them. The book format and content is a splendid combination of clear text and stunning photos that truly makes the learning of this daunting subject much, much easier. Amazingly, it even makes the experience actually engaging and Fun. This "photographic guide" is intended as a companion to the authors' larger, greater text tome but it is extremely helpful all by itself. It really is among the three or four best, most helpful guides I've ever come across in 35 or so years of birding. It just HAS to be one of the best bird book bargains there are.

I purchased this book because I have little knowledge of sparrows. This book is no different than a typical field guide except it focuses on sparrows. The details provided for each species is much

more in depth as well. The binding is made of a thicker glossy material so taking it to the field for use would be ideal. Overall an excellent guide and I recommend adding it to any collection.

The book provides the best coverage of sparrows I have ever seen. The photographs are sharp, clear and have excellent color rendition. Many birding books are great disappointments because of the difficulty in following color photographic plates to other indexed pages for the scientific descriptions. Here, the photographs and narrative are arranged in adjacent proximity for ease of use. The authors of this book have obviously taken great care in compiling photographs which reveal the discrete differences in markings, size and color. The cover of this book is tough and resilient. It will work well for field work. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to have an aid for differentiating sparrows of the United States and Canada. "Bruce"---Olathe, KS

If you are like me, you find the plethora of similar sparrows confusing and difficult to parse out. They are the quintessential LBJs of the birding world. This book cuts through the confusion and muddle and leads one, well me at any rate, to the identification of the bird at hand, or more likely, skulking in the shrubbery. The sparrows in my yard have increased from four (five if you include the ubiquitous "LBJ"!) to ten identified species (and no LBJs!). And that is not even using my imagination! This book goes a long way towards increasing my appreciation of the understated beauty of the sparrows in my area. I highly recommend it.

I love this book. Sparrows are ubiquitous little creatures, but with a lot of variation. This book makes identification of the many different types much easier with an abundance of colored photographs taken in natural habitats. The species are conveniently indexed on the stiff heavy paper flap inside the front cover. The flap makes an excellent book mark as well. Organization of chapters on each species is convenient and clear, facilitating quick, detailed information on the go, or just learning about this interesting group of birds. Who knew, the towhee is a sparrow? There are 64 sparrow species described in detail. One thing I would have done is apply a little brightness and contrast to some of the photos before printing. Purists may appreciate that it wasn't done.

Excellent resource with outstanding pictures. Very helpful in sorting out the sparrows that are different in Texas than ones where I've birded in California.

Sparrows are so difficult to ID, a regular field guide often doesn't cut it. This field guide is perfect and

helps with sparrow ID issues. Real photos, instead of drawings, are useful. Information is thorough. The perfect book for sparrow ID!

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