Bayou City Birding  Sparrow Cheat Sheet  WhiteOakBayou.org

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| **WHITE-THROATED**  
**Zonotrichia albicollis** | **SONG**  
*Melospiza melodia* | **CHIPPING**  
*Spizella passerina* | **SEASIDE**  
*Ammodramus maritimus*  
- **(male)**  
Gray crown, black lore, and rusty area behind the eye and above the gray cheek. Throat/bib grows blacker as spring arrives and feather tips wear. Hangs out anywhere there’s food.  
- **(female)**  
Pinkish bill, white wingbars, oddly streaked orange and gray breast/flanks, and short tail.  

Definitely not an LBJ. Two-tone bill, faint wingbars, super-streaked breast/flanks, and medium-length tail.  
White malar, big triangular throat stripe, and splotchy spot at the center of the streaked breast. Gray bill, faint wingbars, heavily streaked breast/flanks, and medium-length tail.  
Rusty-brown crown and a black eyeline that extends to the bill, looking like a pencil tucked behind an ear. Pinkish bill, white wingbars, unstreaked breast/flanks, and long notched tail.  
Gray face with a yellow-orange lore and malar. (Young birds have a white malar.) Long gray bill, faint buff wingbars, oddly streaked orange and gray breast/flanks, and short tail.

| **WHITE-THROATED**  
**Zonotrichia albicollis** | **SWAMP**  
*Melospiza georgiana* | **CLAY-COLORED**  
*Spizella pallida* | **LE CONTE'S**  
*Ammomimus leconteii*  
- **(male)**  
Buff to orange eyebrow and malar on a relatively plain face. Light buff/orange on streaked breast/flanks. Gray bill, no wingbars, faintly streaked breast/flanks, and short tail.  
- **(female)**  
Pinkish bill, white wingbars, oddly streaked orange and gray breast/flanks, and short tail.  

Tan-striped morph is grayer overall, with the malar and throat divided by a faint gray throat stripe. Gray bill, white wingbars, variable fine or blurry streaking on breast/flanks, and long tail.  
Pale face with an eyering, tan lore, white malar, and brown throat stripe. Looks very cute. Grayish-pink bill, buff wingbars, unstreaked tan breast/flanks, and long notched tail.  
Bright buffy eyebrow and unbordered malar, with lighter buff on breast/flanks. Dart-like eyeline above the gray cheek. Gray bill, no wingbars, boldly streaked flanks, and short tail.

| **WHITE-CROWNE**  
**Zonotrichia leucophrys** | **LINCOLN'S**  
*Melospiza lincolnii* | **FIELD**  
*Spizella pusilla* | **NELSON'S**  
*Ammomimus nelsoni*  
- **(male)**  
Buff malar, breast, and flanks, and lots of fine-line streaking. Crown feathers are often raised. Gray bill, faint buff wingbars, neatly streaked breast/flanks, and medium-length tail.  
- **(female)**  
Gray crown, black lore, and brown throat stripe. Looks very cute. Pinkish bill, white wingbars, unstreaked breast/flanks, and long notched tail.  

Black-and-white “bike helmet” on an otherwise gray head. (Young birds have brown and gray stripes.) Big pink bill, white wingbars, streaked brown flanks, and long tail.  
Buff malar, breast, and flanks, and lots of fine-line streaking. Crown feathers are often raised. Gray bill, faint buff wingbars, neatly streaked breast/flanks, and medium-length tail.  
Plain face and white eyering make the pink bill pop. Eyeline/cheek/breast/flanks can be all gray or orange/y. Pink bill, white wingbars, unstreaked breast/flanks, and long notched tail.  
Buff to orange eyebrow and malar on a relatively plain face. Light buff/orange on streaked breast/flanks. Gray bill, no wingbars, faintly streaked breast/flanks, and short tail.

| **HARRIS'S**  
**Zonotrichia querula** | **SAVANNAH**  
*Passerculus sandwichensis* | **VESPER**  
*Poecetes gramineus* | **GRASSHOPPER**  
*Ammomimus savannarum*  
- **(male)**  
White eyering, brown cheek framed by an eyeline and mustache, and some yellow on the eyebrow. Two-tone bill, faint buff wingbars, neatly streaked breast/flanks, and short tail.  
- **(female)**  
Gray crown, black lore, and rusty area behind the eye and above the gray cheek. Throat/bib grows blacker as spring arrives and feather tips wear. Hangs out anywhere there’s food.  

Black crown, lore, throat, and bib. (Young birds have less black on the crown and a mostly white throat.) Big pink bill, white wingbars, streaked brown flanks, and long tail.  
White eyering, brown cheek framed by an eyeline and mustache, and some yellow on the eyebrow. Two-tone bill, faint buff wingbars, neatly streaked breast/flanks, and short tail.  
Facial markings seem fuzzy, except for the bold white eyering and malar. Two-tone bill, buffy wingbars, finely streaked breast/flanks, and medium-length tail with white outer feathers.  
Plain face, with a white eyering, a hint of orange above the lore, and small dark marks at the back of the cheek. Gray bill, faint buff wingbars, unstreaked breast/flanks, and short tail.

| **FOX**  
*Passerella iliaca* | **LARK**  
*Chondestes grammacus* | **HOUSE**  
*(male)*  
*Passer domesticus* | **HOUSE**  
*(female)*  
*Passer domesticus*  
- **(male)**  
Covered with rusty-red streaks painted on with far too much enthusiasm. Definitely not an LBJ. Two-tone bill, faint wingbars, super-streaked breast/flanks, and medium-length tail.  
Unusually bold facial markings and a dark spot on the breast. (Young birds are less colorful.) Gray bill, buff wingbars, unstreaked breast/flanks, and long tail with white outer feathers.  
Gray crown, black lore, and rusty area behind the eye and above the gray cheek. Throat/bib grows blacker as spring arrives and feather tips wear. Hangs out anywhere there’s food.  
Pale eyebrow between the darker crown and fuzzy eyeline. Two-tone bill, faint wingbars, unstreaked breast/flanks, and short tail. Non-native and not related to our other sparrows.  
- **(female)**  
Covered with rusty-red streaks painted on with far too much enthusiasm. Definitely not an LBJ. Two-tone bill, faint wingbars, super-streaked breast/flanks, and medium-length tail.  
Unusually bold facial markings and a dark spot on the breast. (Young birds are less colorful.) Gray bill, buff wingbars, unstreaked breast/flanks, and long tail with white outer feathers.  
Gray crown, black lore, and rusty area behind the eye and above the gray cheek. Throat/bib grows blacker as spring arrives and feather tips wear. Hangs out anywhere there’s food.  
Pale eyebrow between the darker crown and fuzzy eyeline. Two-tone bill, faint wingbars, unstreaked breast/flanks, and short tail. Non-native and not related to our other sparrows.