Bayou City Birding Sparrow Flashcards #1 WhiteOakBayou.org

Column 1: White-throated (white-striped), White-throated (tan-striped), White-crowned, Harris's Column 2: Song, Swamp, Lincoln's, House Column 3: Chipping, Clay-colored, Field, House

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Print double-sided and cut out the photos for use as flashcards. Need help with the bird jargon? See Sparrow Flashcards #2.

CHIPPING

Spizella passerina

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. Common, September thru May.

SONG

Melospiza melodia

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 mediumlength tail. Common, October thru April.

WHITE-THROATED

Zonotrichia albicollis

White-striped morph has a white eyebrow, malar, and throat, with yellow above the lore. (Young birds look like tan morphs.) Gray bill, white wingbars, unstreaked breast/flanks, and long tail.

Common, Oct. thru mid May.

CLAY-COLORED

Spizella pallida

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. Uncommon, September thru mid May.

SWAMP

Melospiza georgiana

Facial markings look blurry. Note the rusty-red wings and tail, and the warm brown flanks. Gray bill, no wingbars, faint/blurry streaking on breast/flanks, and mediumlength tail. Common, mid October thru mid May.

WHITE-THROATED

Zonotrichia albicollis

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.

Common, October thru April.

FIELD

Spizella pusilla

Plain face and white eyering make the pink bill pop. Eyeline/cheek/breast/flanks can be all gray or orangey. Pink bill, white wingbars, unstreaked breast/flanks, and long notched tail. Common, October thru early May.

LINCOLN'S

Melospiza lincolnii

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 mediumlength tail. Common, October thru mid May.

WHITE-CROWNED

Zonotrichia leucophrys

Black-and-white "bike helmet" on an otherwise gray head. (Young birds have brown and gray stripes.) Pinkish bill, white wingbars, unstreaked breast/flanks, and long tail. Common, October thru mid May.

HOUSE (female)

Passer domesticus

Pale eyebrow between the darker crown and fuzzy eyeline. Two-tone bill, faint wingbars, unstreaked breast/flanks, and short tail. Nonnative and not related to our other sparrows. Very common, year-round.

HOUSE (male)

Passer domesticus

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. Very common, yearround.

HARRIS'S

Zonotrichia querula

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. Fairly common, November thru early May.