



★ Oregon Army
National Guard
(ORARNG)

A small, brown, streaked bird is perched on a thin, green, leafy branch. The bird is facing left and has its beak slightly open. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

Common Birds of Rees Training Area



Habitat

- Great Basin grassland
- Dominated by invasive annuals (e.g., cheatgrass, mustards), intermixed perennial bunchgrass
- Sparse shrub (e.g., sagebrush, rabbitbrush)
- Enclosed by ag





Common Bird Identification





Common Birds of Rees TA



horned lark



Western meadowlark



grasshopper sparrow



Brewer's sparrow



rock pigeon



red-tailed hawk



lark sparrow



Western kingbird



sage thrasher



California quail



mourning dove



Swainson's hawk



burrowing owl



American crow



common raven



long-billed curlew



Common Birds of Rees TA

PASSERINES



horned lark



Western meadowlark



grasshopper sparrow



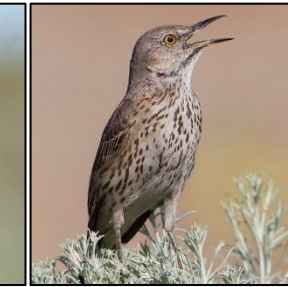
Brewer's sparrow



lark sparrow



Western kingbird



sage thrasher



Common Birds of Rees TA

PASSERINES



horned lark

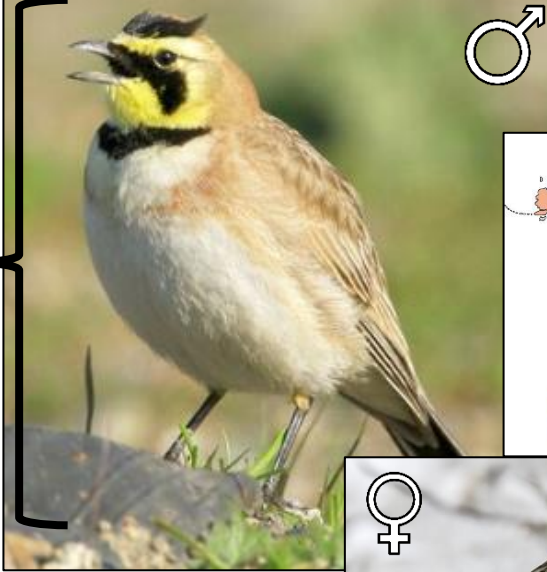
Eremophila alpestris



■ Year-round ■ Breeding
■ Migration ■ Nonbreeding



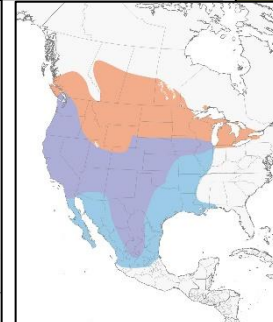
6-8"



- Small, long-bodied
- Horizontal posture
- Active, social
- Forage on ground
- Year-round
- Winter in large flocks

Western meadowlark

Sturnella neglecta



6-10"



- Robin-sized, chunkier, short tail
- Long, slender bill
- Yellow underparts, black "V" on breast
- Males can be found singing atop posts, bushes, fences, etc.



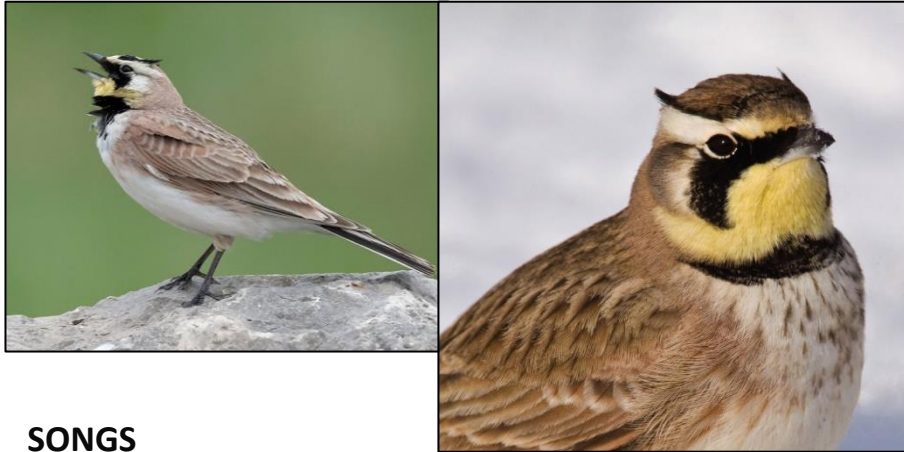
Common Birds of Rees TA

PASSERINES



horned lark

Eremophila alpestris



SONGS

Horned larks sing a delicate, musical song particularly in the early morning as early as an hour and a half before sunrise. It's a fast, high-pitched sequence of sharp, tinkling notes, often rising in pitch to a quick jumble of concluding notes. Songs are typically a couple of seconds long but may go on for more than a minute. Males usually sing from a post, rock, clod, mound or other perch, but may sing on the wing, from a height of up to about 800 feet in the air.

CALLS

The Horned lark's typical call, most often heard in fall and winter, is a high, piercing one- or two-note chip.

Western meadowlark

Sturnella neglecta



SONGS

Male Western meadowlarks have a complex, two-phrase "primary" song that begins with 1–6 pure whistles and descends to a series of 1–5 gurgling warbles. Males develop a repertoire of up to a dozen songs. When chasing competing males or responsive females, male Western meadowlarks give a hurried, excited "flight song" of short-spaced whistles and warbles.

CALLS

The Western meadowlark's most common call is a low, bell-like *pluk* or *chupp* which they use when disturbed and during courtship and territorial displays



Common Birds of Rees TA

PASSERINES



horned lark



Western meadowlark



grasshopper sparrow



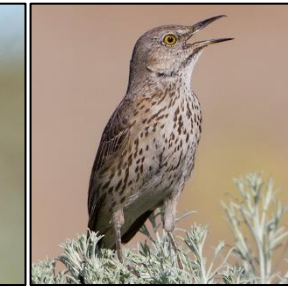
Brewer's sparrow



lark sparrow



Western kingbird



sage thrasher



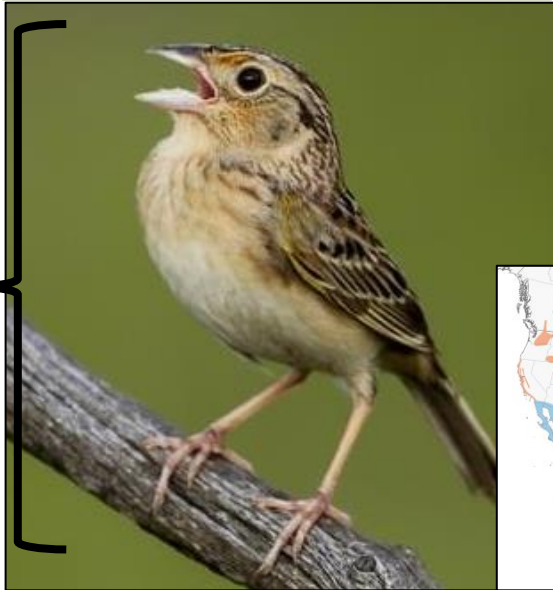
Common Birds of Rees TA

PASSERINES



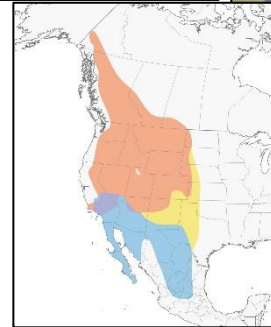
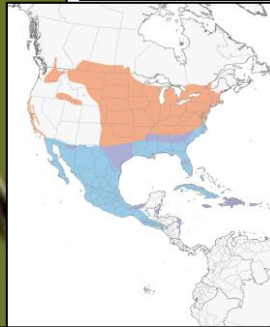
grasshopper sparrow

Ammodramus savannarum



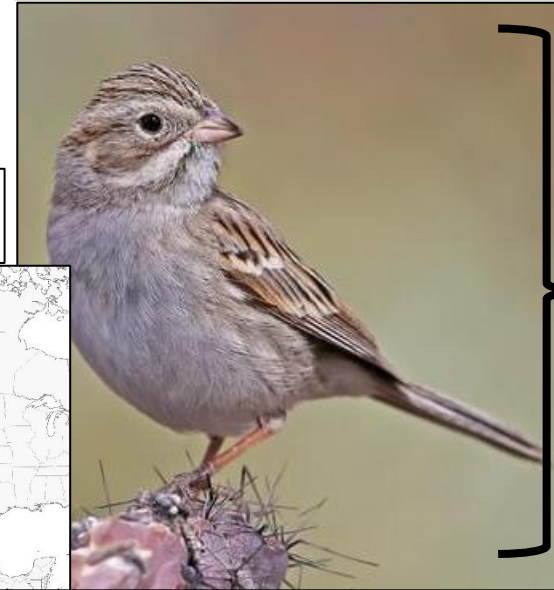
4-4.5"

Legend:
■ Year-round (purple)
■ Breeding (orange)
■ Migration (yellow)
■ Nonbreeding (blue)



Brewer's sparrow

Spizella breweri



5-6"

- Small, compact shape
- Large head, long legs
- Secretive, typically stay close to ground

- Size of a chickadee
- Long, notched tail, sharp conical bill



Common Birds of Rees TA

PASSERINES



grasshopper sparrow

Ammodramus savannarum



SONGS

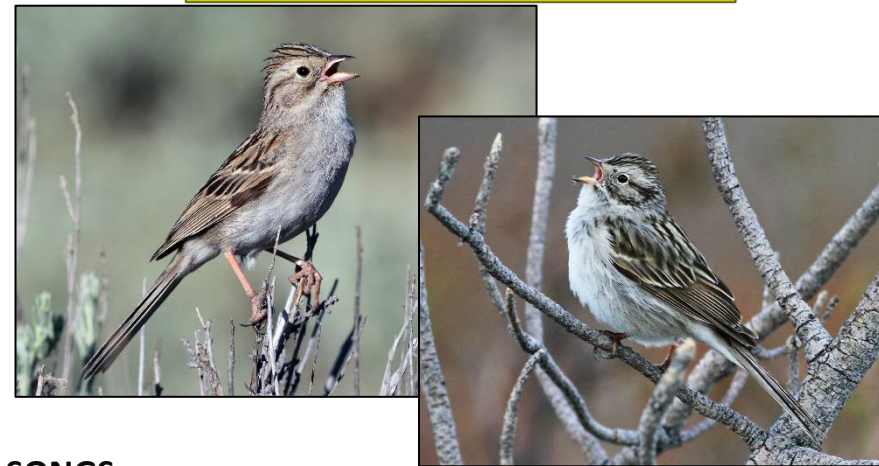
As their name would suggest, grasshopper sparrow's typical song is a thin, insectlike buzz preceded by two to three ticking chips, *tick tick pzzzzzzzz*.

CALLS

The main call note is a high-pitched *seet*. They also make a series of staccato two-parted *tiddick* notes when alarmed.

Brewer's sparrow

Spizella breweri



SONGS

Male Brewer's sparrows sing dry, trilling songs that sounds like buzzing and like a melodic insect. Songs last 1.5 to 3 seconds and typically consist of 2 trilled sections, with the first usually being faster and higher pitched.

CALLS

Call is a soft *tsip* or *seep*, similar to other *Spizella* sparrows. Females give soft twittering calls when soliciting courtship feeding or copulation from males.



Common Birds of Rees TA

PASSERINES



horned lark



Western meadowlark



grasshopper sparrow



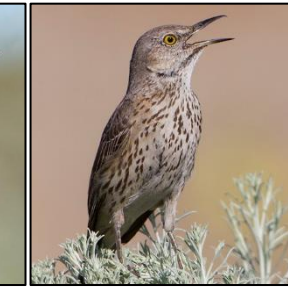
Brewer's sparrow



lark sparrow



Western kingbird



sage thrasher



Common Birds of Rees TA

PASSERINES



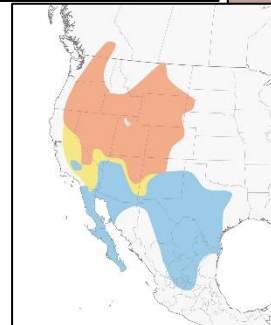
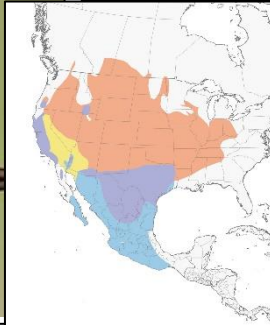
lark sparrow

Chondestes grammacus

6-7"



Year-round Breeding
Migration Nonbreeding

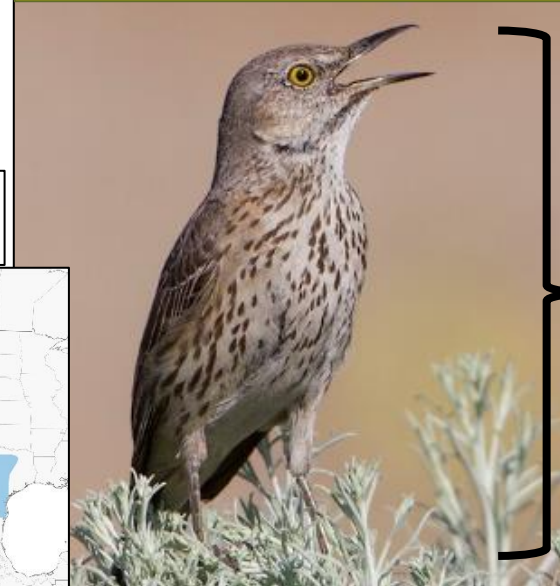


- Large, long-tailed sparrow
- When perched, long-bodied and with thin neck, round head
- Distinctive bold chestnut and white facial stripes
- **Lookalike:** chipping sparrow – possible, but likely wrong habitat

sage thrasher

Oreoscoptes montanus

8-9"



- Typical thrasher head and body, though smaller, with a shorter, straighter bill
- Long tail
- Overall gray with spotted underparts
- Upright, tail flicking



Common Birds of Rees TA

PASSERINES



lark sparrow

Chondestes grammacus



SONGS

Male lark sparrows sing a melodious jumble of clear notes and trills interspersed with harsh buzzes and churrs. The song generally starts with a short buzz followed by 1–3 clear notes, then a few notes at a lower pitch, and finally a clear trill; they often switch up the order of the notes. Listen for the short buzzes within the jumble to help identify the song.

CALLS

Both male and female lark sparrows give a sharp metallic *tink*.

sage thrasher

Oreoscoptes montanus



SONGS

Males have long, complex, melodic songs, with remarkable variety. The rambling series of phrases, often preceded by soft clucking notes, is continuous and interspersed with moments of repetition and mimicry. Songs can be very long indeed; one male was recorded singing for 22 minutes straight.

CALLS

When alarmed, call is a low, hoarse cluck, very similar to a Red-winged Blackbird, accompanied by a flick of the tail.



Common Birds of Rees TA

PASSERINES



horned lark



Western meadowlark



grasshopper sparrow



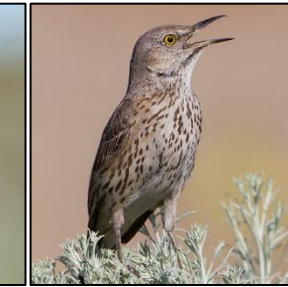
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Common Birds of Rees TA

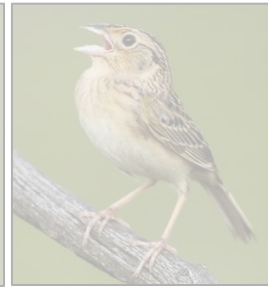
PASSERINES



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Western meadowlark



grasshopper sparrow



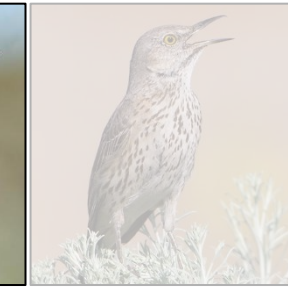
Brewer's sparrow



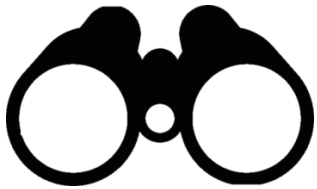
lark sparrow



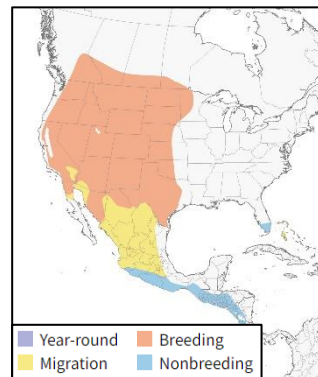
Western kingbird



sage thrasher



- Relatively large flycatchers
- Heavy, straight bills
- Long, square-tipped tail
- Gray head, white/gray throat, yellow belly, conspicuous white outer tail feathers



SONGS

Though it's not technically in the group of birds known as songbirds, the Western Kingbird has one call that functions as a song. Their song is a rising series of sharp kips, culminating in a frantic burst of loud descending notes. Each call lasts about 2 seconds, and the male may repeat the pattern for half an hour to proclaim his territory.

CALLS

Western Kingbirds give sharp *kip* notes and squeaky twitters.



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long-billed curlew



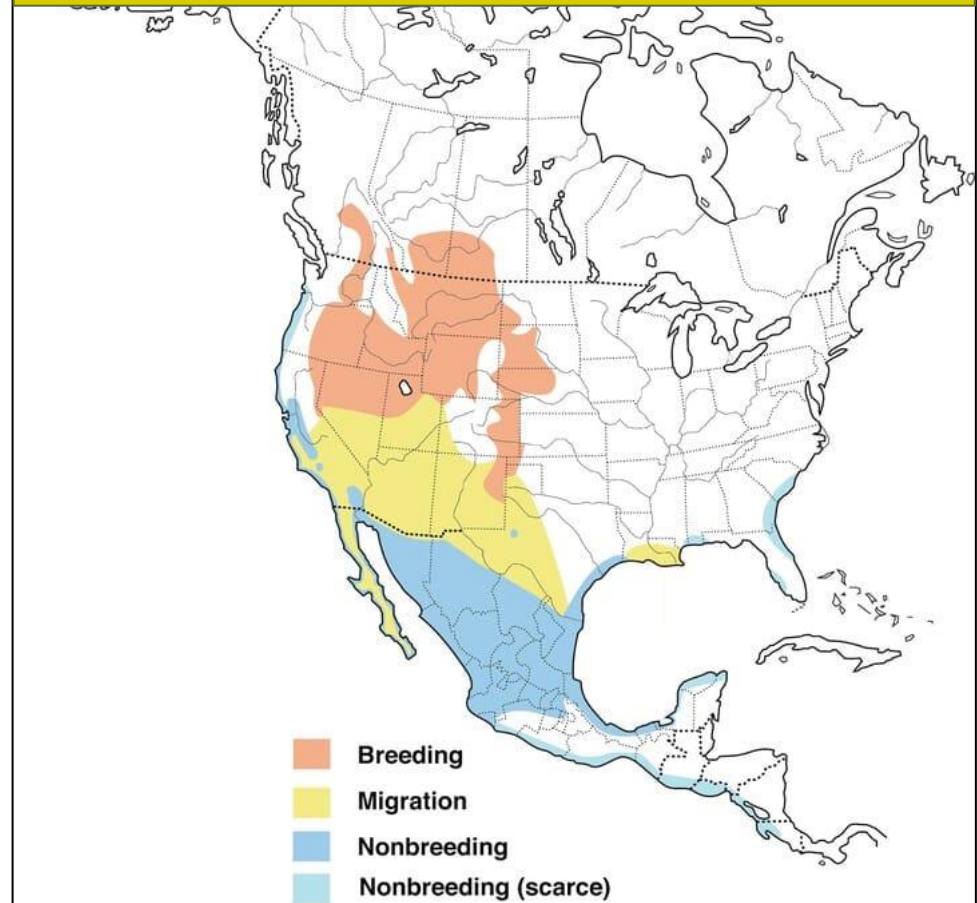
Common Birds of Rees TA

SHOREBIRDS



long-billed curlew

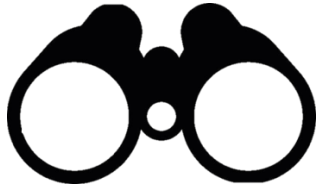
Numenius americanus





Common Birds of Rees TA

SHOREBIRDS



20-25"



- Larger than a whimbrel, smaller than an egret
- M and F nest switch at dawn and dusk
- **Lookalike:** whimbrel – outside of range/habitat

SONGS

Song starts with a low whistled *prreee* and builds into a louder *prprprprpr prrreeep prrreeep prrreeerr*.

CALLS

The alarm and contact call of male and female Long-billed Curlews is a harsh whistled *cur-lee*, rising on second note; given year-round. They also give a rapid whistled tremolo with a slight stuttering quality to it.



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Swainson's hawk



burrowing owl



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common raven



long-billed curlew



Common Birds of Rees TA

RAPTORS



red-tailed hawk



Swainson's hawk



burrowing owl



Common Birds of Rees TA

RAPTORS

red-tailed hawk

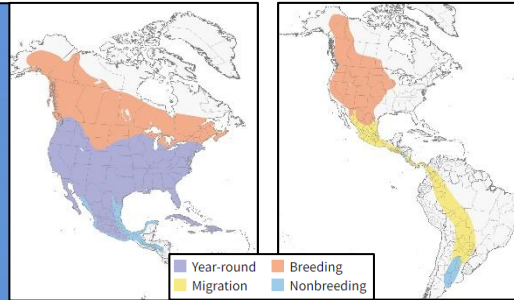
Buteo jamaicensis

Swainson's hawk

Buteo swainsoni

Dark patagial marks

Dark hood extending onto chest



Dark belly band

Dark flight feathers

White wing linings



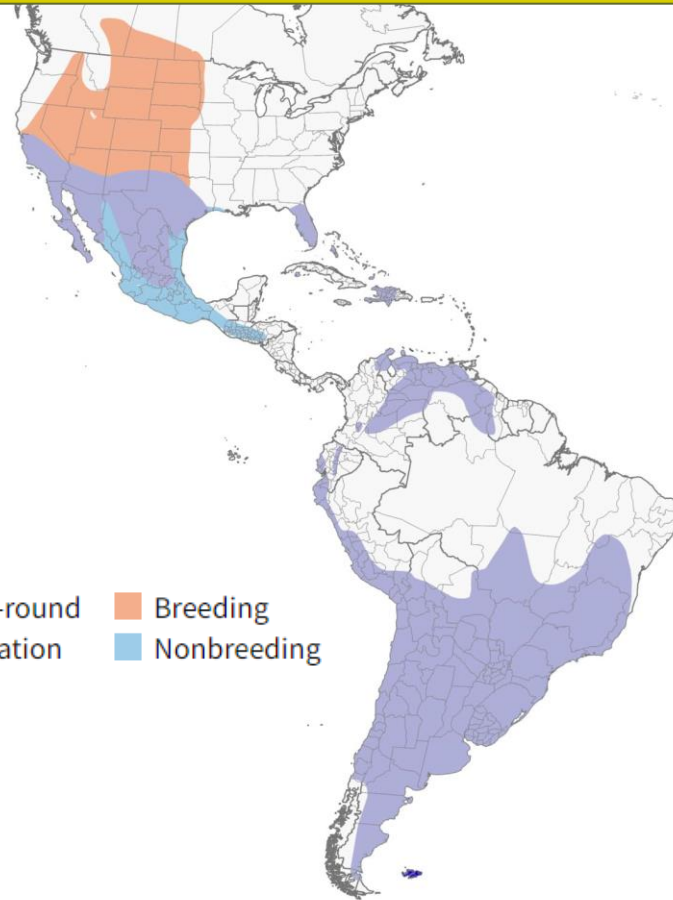
Common Birds of Rees TA

RAPTORS



burrowing owl

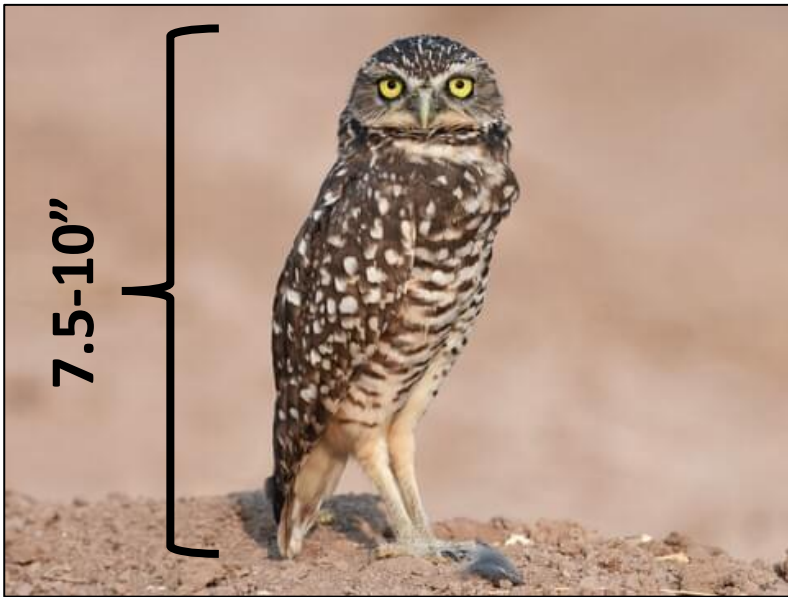
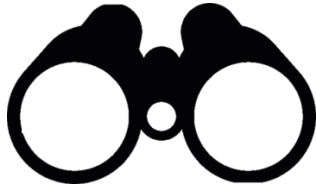
Athene cunicularia





Common Birds of Rees TA

RAPTORS



- Small owls with long legs
- Round head with no tufts
- Secondary burrow users, spend most time on or close to the ground
- Active during the day

CALLS

Burrowing owls are capable of producing a variety of cooing, warbling, rasping, clucking, and rattling sounds. Most commonly heard is a quail-like two-note cooing. Adults make raspy *cheeck* alarm calls. Young owls utter *eep* calls and rasping sounds, the most intense and prolonged of which may scare away predators by mimicking a rattlesnake's warning.



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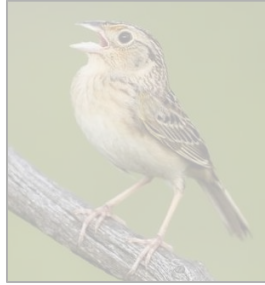
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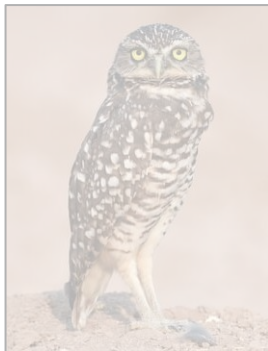
California quail



mourning dove



Swainson's hawk



burrowing owl



American crow



common raven



long-billed curlew



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Questions?