

This is a typical **Species Identification & Information Card** that shows how each species will be presented. These pages describe how the card is set up, how to interpret range maps, where to look for certain information or photos, and other tips on how to use this guide.

Colour Code
The background colour behind the species name denotes the taxonomic group, or species classification (e.g. mammals: brown, birds: blue, etc.)

Species Photo
Detailed photo(s) of the species that show distinguishing characteristics clearly

Species Description
Distinguishing characteristics of the species are described, including shape, size, colour, male/female/ juvenile differences, and so on.

Page One

Common Name

Scientific Name
(Genus species)

Status
The status of species changes over time - listings in this guide are current as of March 2021 (check the web for current info). The National status is shown next to the Canadian flag and the Provincial status is shown next to the provincial flag.

See page vi for more details on the status of species.

Range Description
Describes where the species is known or expected to occur in Atlantic Canada (most also exist elsewhere in Canada or the world); sometimes includes the number of individuals estimated to exist in the population(s).

Ipswich Sparrow

STATUS	Not Listed	Not Listed
Species at Risk	✓	✓
Vulnerable	✗	✗
Not Listed	✗	✗

Habitat
Breeds on Sable Island, 150 km from mainland Nova Scotia, in the heath and dense maritime grass-habitat of the island's dunes. Males in winter-dune beaches with grass cover and sheltered areas such as valleys. It is adapted to living in coastal dune habitat by being lighter-colored and larger than the mainland subspecies.

Species Description
The Ipswich Sparrow is the principal subspecies of the Savannah Sparrow. Males and females have pale grey plumage with grass-brown upperparts and grey-brown breast, cheeks and whitish underparts. In the spring and summer, they have a yellow stripe near the front of their eye. Their tail is dusky and slightly notched. In the fall and winter the yellow stripe above the eye becomes very faint.

Range Map
Shows distribution in Atlantic Canada with a red circle indicating the location of Sable Island.

Key Identifiers
In the fall and winter the yellow stripe above the eye becomes very faint.

Key Identifiers
This space is for a detailed drawing(s) or photo(s) that show other key identifying characteristics.

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Sighting Locations
Describes where and when people are most likely to see the species, which may not be in typical habitat. Here, we also provide flowering times for plants, and sometimes specific locations where you might encounter the species.

Range Map
Shaded where the species is known to occur: red (summer), blue (winter), or purple (year-round). Other colours may be used for more complex maps that define separate species populations. Please note: that these distributions are based on COSEWIC status reports and expert advice and are approximate. The maps may represent a broadened overview of distribution. Conversely, species may also be found in suitable habitat outside the indicated range as new populations are discovered.

Habitat Description
The environment (physical/biological features) in which the species is found, sometimes including the community (other species) that usually occur in this habitat.

Habitat Photos
Detailed photos showing the habitat in which the species is found - we try and provide a range of angles and scales, showing the habitat from a distance, and close-up.

Interesting Points

Engaging, exciting, curious, or otherwise interesting points are listed about the species.

Photos

This space is for photos that depict interesting points.

Threats To Survival

Reasons why the species is at risk are listed; some threats occur naturally (and are sometimes called “limiting factors” or “stressors”), but most are caused/inflicted by humans.

Similar Species

Other species that are similar in appearance are described; the ways that people often confuse the two are listed, and key distinguishing characteristics are provided.

Although you might think you’ve seen a Species at Risk, there are many “look-alikes” out there with which they can be confused. To confirm your sighting, be sure to take a photo!

Although we provide photos and descriptions of most similar species, some are not covered in this guide. Others are very difficult to distinguish. We recommend you consult other resources (field guides, on-line materials) to further assist your identification.

Interesting Points

- Makes nests that appear to winter separately with males wintering further north than females.
- The two Savannah Sparrow subspecies are known to occasionally hybridize.
- The only songbird known to nest in large numbers in Sable Island National Park Reserve.



Ipswich Sparrow with log bark

Similar Species

The pale grayish plumage of the Ipswich Sparrow is one of the key ways to distinguish it from other sparrow species. It is found along the ocean shoreline and is not observed inland.

Savannah Sparrow: Smaller, darker colored with darker breast streaks.



Song Sparrow: No yellow on face; triangular “moustache” stripe; pale breast crown stripe.



Threats to Survival

- Suitable breeding areas on Sable Island are limited and may be threatened by erosion.
- Mortality during migration.
- Habitat loss and disturbance on wintering grounds.



Ipswich Sparrow

How You Can Help

Learn to recognize rare birds and report sighting of banded Ipswich Sparrows and other birds to Environment Canada (www.ec.gc.ca/esp/327-7B-A624) to help with migratory bird management research. Encourage the conservation of dune beach habitat along the Atlantic coast.



Tracking Ipswich Sparrows on Sable Island

Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities
 Contact: Environment Canada (506) 344-5044 or www.ec.gc.ca
 Info: www.environment.ca.ca, Recovery Stewardship Brief Atlas of amphibians and reptiles
 Sighting Reports: 1-866-773-3447 or www.environment.ca.ca/sighting-reporting
 Stewardship: Bird Studies Canada 1-888-440-2470, www.btc-obs.org

Threats

Photos that depict the threats (dangers) that face the species may be shown here.

Stewardship

This space is for photos that depict stewardship opportunities, or people working to look after the species.

Photos

This space is for photos that depict the similar species.

How You Can Help

The ways that people, organizations, and communities can help are highlighted. This includes simple things you can do every day at home, to more advanced volunteer and stewardship opportunities.

Contact: Info for agencies/jurisdictions helping to recover this species at risk; contact them for general inquiries.

Info: References for additional information about the species.

Sighting Reports: The phone number and email address to which you can report sightings.

Stewardship: Contacts for volunteer and stewardship opportunities.