



*Photo courtesy of: Reid Allen, taken at Dunbar Slough in Greene County IA*

## Bobolink

*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*

The Bobolink often found in mowed, grazed, or recently burned grasslands as well as in marshes and agricultural fields during molting and on migration. Breeding males, as pictured, are mostly black with a white rump and scapulars and a straw colored nape. Though still commonly found, the Bobolink's numbers are decreasing due to loss of native prairie habitat and changing agricultural practices

Description adapted from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Song: a bubbling, metallic warble with varied pitches  
Recorded by Wilbur L. Hershberger, courtesy of The Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

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Photo courtesy of: Reid Allen taken at Kellerton Grassland in Ringgold County, IA

## Henslow's Sparrow

### *Ammodramus henslowii*

Henslow's Sparrow is famously secretive. Reluctant to take flight Henslow's Sparrow runs through the grass to flee. Found in undisturbed grasslands, their population has dropped due largely to prairie habitat loss, and is now considered a near threatened species.

Description adapted from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Call: insect like two-syllable tsi-lick

Recorded by Julia Ferguson, courtesy of The Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

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*Photo courtesy of: Reid Allen taken at Valentine National Wildlife Area in north-central Nebraska*

## Burrowing Owl

*Athene cunicularia*

The long legged Burrowing Owl has bright-yellow eyes. They live in underground burrows that can be several yards long, dug on their own or taken over from prairie dog, ground squirrel, or badgers. The greatest threats to the Burrowing Owl is agricultural development destroying prairie habitat and efforts to eradicate prairie dogs.

Description adapted from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

**Calls:** Though capable of producing a variety of calls the Burrowing Owl is not especially vocal. Mimicking a rattlesnake's warning, young owls call out an intense eep to scare predators.

Recorded by Gerrit Vyn, courtesy of The Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology





Photo courtesy of: Reid Allen, taken in Neal Smith National Wildlife Area in Jasper County, IA

## Dickcissel

*Spiza americana*

Stocky and short-tailed, the Dickcissel is found in grassy or weedy fields and brush. Looking like a miniature meadowlark the breeding males, as pictured, have a large black “V” on their yellow breast. In the fall Dickcissels will assemble into flocks of thousands, preparing for migration south. As prairie habitats are replaced with cropping, breeding grassland birds like the Dickcissel are decreasing in population.

Description adapted from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Song: skee-dlees chis chis chis (“dick dick ciss ciss ciss”)

Recorded by Theodore A. Parker III, courtesy of The Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

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