

# Spotted Towhee

*Pipilo maculatus*

Reminiscent of a troupe of wide-eyed clowns, Acorn The Spotted Towhee is a large, striking sparrow of sun-baked thickets of the West. When you catch sight of one, they're gleaming black above (females are gray-ish), spotted and striped with brilliant white. Their warm rufous flanks match the dry leaves they spend their time hopping around in. The birds can be hard to see in the leaf litter, so your best chance for an unobstructed look at this handsome bird may be in the spring, when males climb into the shrub tops to sing their buzzy songs.

## Keys to Identification

### Size and Shape

A large sparrow with a thick, pointed bill, short neck, chunky body, and long, rounded tail.

### Color Pattern

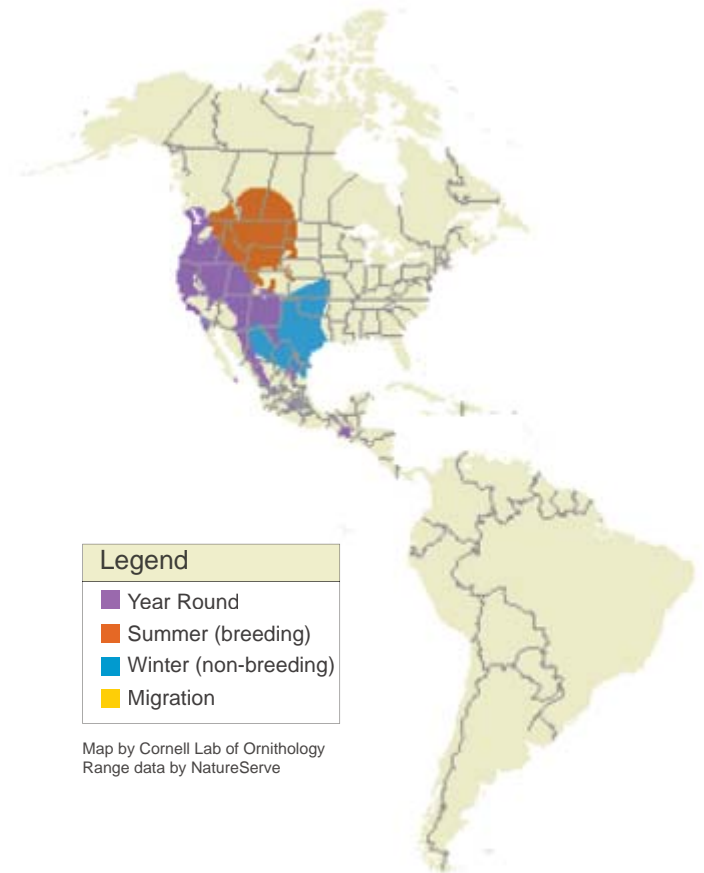
Male Spotted Towhees have jet-black upperparts and throat; their wings and back are spotted bright white. The flanks are warm rufous and the belly is white. Females have the same pattern but are warm brown where males are black. In flight, look for white corners to the black tail.

### Behavior

Spotted Towhees hop over the ground beneath dense tangles of shrubs, scratching in leaf litter for food. They also climb into lower branches to search for insects and fruits, or to deliver their quick, buzzy song. Towhees can fly long distances, but more often make short, slow flights between patches of cover.

### Habitat

Look for Spotted Towhees in open, shrubby habitat with thick undergrowth. Spotted Towhees are also at home in backyards, forest edges, and overgrown fields.



## Measurements

### Both Sexes

- Length - 6.7 - 8.3 inches
- Wingspan - 11 inches
- Weight - 1.2 - 1.7 ounces