

Lazuli Bunting

Passerina amoena

A beautifully colored bird, the Lazuli Bunting is common in shrubby areas throughout the American West.

Keys to Identification

Adult Description

- Small songbird.
- Short, thick bill.
- Two wingbars.
- Relatively short tail with white tips to feathers.
- Breeding male with blue head and back, red chest, and white belly.
- Female and nonbreeding male dull brown.

Male Description

Breeding (Alternate Plumage): Head deep blue. Upper chest reddish. Lower chest, belly, and under tail white. One large and one narrow white wingbar. Black in front of eyes. Wing feathers dark, edged in blue.

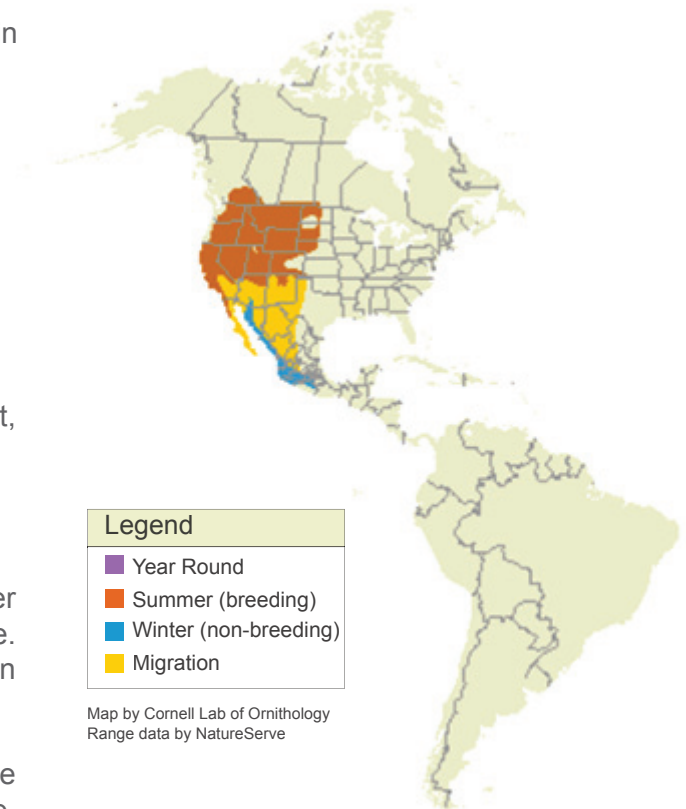
Nonbreeding (Basic) Plumage: Buffy overall. Blue feathers tipped with buff on back and face. Blue, reddish, and white feathers tipped with buff on front.

Female Description

Grayish brown head, nape, and back. Rump brown tinged with light blue. Bluish tint on shoulders. Two pale tan or whitish wingbars. Faint rust band across breast, blending to lighter brown lower on belly. Wing and tail feathers brown with slightly blue-tinged edges.

Immature Description

Similar to adult, but first-year male tends to have paler and duller blue feathers with brown or buff tips, especially on head, nape, and back, resulting in variable dull blue-brown, blotchy appearance.



Cool Facts

- Each male Lazuli Bunting two years of age and older sings only one song, composed of a series of different syllables, and unique to that individual. Yearling males generally arrive on the breeding grounds without a song of their own. Shortly after arriving, a young male develops its own song, which can be a novel rearrangement of syllables, combinations of song fragments of several males, or a copy of the song of one particular older male.

Measurements

Both Sexes

- Length - 5.1 - 5.9 inches
- Wingspan - 8.7 inches
- Weight - 0.5 - 0.6 ounces