

# Lazuli Bunting (LAZB)

*Passerina amoena*



Photo by Alix d'Entremont

Adult male Lazuli Bunting - Breeding;  
[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Lazuli\\_Bunting/overview](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Lazuli_Bunting/overview)



Photo by Mary Rumble

Adult female Lazuli Bunting;  
[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Lazuli\\_Bunting/overview](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Lazuli_Bunting/overview)

## Characteristics

- Small, stocky, finch-like songbird with cone-shaped bill; sloping forehead; slightly forked tail
- Length: 14 cm
- Weight: 15.5 g
- Wingspan: 22 cm
- Adult breeding males are bright blue with orange breast and white belly, distinct white patch on shoulder.
- Females are greyish brown with slightly bluish tint on wings and tail and cinnamon chest.
- Males are persistent singers, each with their own individual song

## Behavior

- Perch upright in low trees or shrubs; most of time is spent in understory
- Often seen hopping on the ground or on branches while eating insects
- Socially monogamous, males court females by fluttering wings and puffing out chest

## Habitat

- Often found in brushy hillsides near vegetation and/or streams; prefers shrubs for nests
- Elevation range: up to 9,500 ft



Photo by Rene Corado

Lazuli Bunting nest <https://nestwatch.org/learn/focal-species/lazuli-bunting>

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## Diet

- Typically graze on a variety of insects, including caterpillars, grasshoppers, ants, and spiders
- Also eat berries and seeds when they're available
- If in a residential area, they can be found feeding from bird feeders.

## Zzyzx-Specific Information

- Not often seen at the Desert Studies Center

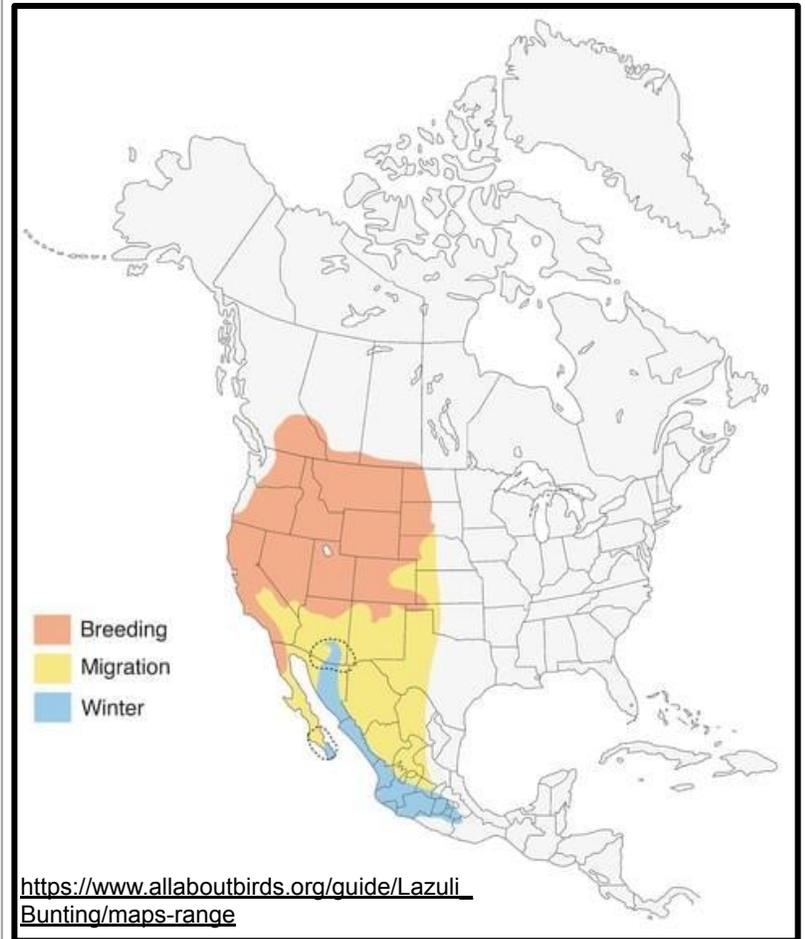
## Conservation Status

- IUCN status, Least Concerned
- Populations of Lazuli Bunting are increasing nationwide
- Species is vulnerable to invasive brood parasite, Brown-headed Cowbirds

## Did you know?!

- Male and female mating partners will care for their young for as little as 3 weeks after hatching
- Males will fly upward while singing as a sign of aggression to mark their territory
- Males learn their unique song by listening to other males, resulting in 'song neighborhoods' of similar songs
- Males tend to fly-catch from tall or exposed perches while females typically fly-catch from lower, more sheltered perches

## Range



Breeding Male Lazuli Bunting in Desert Scrub;  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/claytonpeoples/34527469725/>

## Sources:

“Lazuli Bunting Overview, All About Birds, Cornell Lab of Ornithology.” , *All About Birds, Cornell Lab of Ornithology*, [www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Lazuli\\_Bunting/overview](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Lazuli_Bunting/overview)

“Lazuli Bunting”, *Bird Web, Seattle Audubon Society*,  
[http://birdweb.org/birdweb/bird/lazuli\\_bunting](http://birdweb.org/birdweb/bird/lazuli_bunting)

BirdLife International. (2016). The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.  
<https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/22723948/94841556>

Sibley, D. A. (2016). *Sibley birds west: field guide to birds of western North America*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf (427)

## Photos:

<https://nestwatch.org/learn/focal-species/lazuli-bunting/>  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/claytonpeoples/34527469725/>  
[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Lazuli\\_Bunting/overview](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Lazuli_Bunting/overview)  
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