



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS BEALL

The chipping sparrow.

Sisters Country birds

By Douglas Beall
Correspondent

The chipping sparrow [Spizella passerina] frequents roadsides, bird feeders, mountain meadows and grassy fields across the west. The male guards the female as she builds a rather flimsy nest that often can be seen through and provides little insulation for its young. After 3-4 days of building, 2-7 pale blue to white, lightly streaked eggs are incubated for 10-15 days.

During the breeding season the female develops a bare patch on her abdomen that fills with fluid. This allows efficient transfer of heat to the eggs. The nestlings leave the nest in approximately 12 days and begin eating seeds and small insects as a mainstay of their diet.

An early naturalist description of the chipping sparrow in 1929 was “the little brown-capped pensioner of the doorway and lawn, that comes about farmhouse doors to glean crumbs shaken from

the tablecloth by thrifty housewives.”

Populations have declined by 38 percent between 1966 and 2015.

When in a group, chipping sparrows are referred to as a “tournament” of sparrows. For more images visit <http://abirdsingsbecauseithasasong.com/recent-journeys>.

RIO MIRA: First of three concerts at Fir Street Park

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(producer of Latin Grammy-winning social heritage project De Taitas y Mamas) and is guided by the distinctive percussive tones of the marimba.

This socially conscious project, based out of the coastal town of Esmeraldas in Ecuador and the city of Cali in Colombia, is becoming a symbol of Afro-Pacific identity. The story of the marimba is closely intertwined with the history of rebel slaves — known as maroons — who have made the region their home from the early 16th century onward. There is a celebratory feeling to this music. In 2015, UNESCO declared the marimba music of South Pacific Colombia and Esmeraldas Province, Ecuador to be Intangible Cultural Heritage. Taking its name from the river which runs from Ecuador into Colombia, the band Rio Mira is living proof of the rich history of South America’s northwesterly Pacific coast.

On Thursday, August 1, the bluegrass group Town Mountain will perform, and on Wednesday, August 21, Freddy & Francine will close out the summer series.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Rio Mira kicks off the Sisters Folk Festival Free Summer Concert Series at Fir Street Park.

For SFF 2019 Summer Concert Series and artist information, and for information on 2019 Festival tickets, artists, schedules and becoming an SFF volunteer, visit sistersfolkfestival.org. For the summer series SFF encourages patrons to bring blankets and low-back chairs,

as seating is not provided. All shows start at 6:30 p.m., are free and open to the public, and picnics are encouraged. The Fir Street Park venue is located in downtown Sisters at 150 N. Fir St. For more information contact info@sistersfolkfestival.org or call 541-549-4979.

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