

Indigo Bunting



GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST

ECO-SERVICE CARDS

INDIGO BUNTING

Passerina cyanea

ORDER: Passeriformes

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ 5 1/2 inches long
- ◆ males are a brilliant indigo blue in late spring and summer, more brown with some blue in early spring and fall; females are dull brown
- ◆ thick bill for cracking seed



Where to Look

Indigo Buntings are found in farmland, pastures, and edges of woodlands. They are sometimes seen singing on wires or in the treetops.



What It Eats.

Indigo Buntings eat many weed seeds and insect pests and are greatly appreciated by farmers and gardeners.



Nesting

Indigo Buntings build nests of grass, leaves and moss lined with softer materials in shrubs and small trees. They lay 3-4 white eggs.



Call or Song

The call of the Indigo Bunting resembles an excited "warble".



Migration?

The Indigo Bunting migrates to Central and South America for the winter.



Did You Know

The Indigo Bunting's blue color is dependent on light. They actually appear black in a shaded spot.