## The Prairie Game

### How to Play

You will need one die to play *The Prairie Game*. Up to four players can play.

1. Make a copy of this page and cut out the Quiz Cards, writing the appropriate number (1-6) on the back of each card.

2. Place Quiz Cards face down on the playing board.

3. Each player rolls the die. Lowest roll goes first, with play continuing clockwise around the board.

4. The first player rolls the die, moves the appropriate number of spaces, and follows the directions on the board.

5. If you land on a Quiz Card space, draw the appropriate quiz card (i.e., if you land on space #1, draw Quiz Card #1). If you are the first player to land on the space, answer question 1. If you are the second player, answer question 2, and so on. You can find the answers to all questions in the bird field guide in the back of the book.

6. The first player to reach the end of the board wins.

### Quiz Card #1

| Question 1: Identify the bird on square #6. | Question 2: Where does this bird nest? | Question 3: Where is this bird found during winter and migration? | Question 4: How big is this bird? |

### Quiz Card #2

| Question 1: Identify the bird on square #11. | Question 2: Where does this bird nest? | Question 3: Where is this bird found in the winter? | Question 4: Is this bird rare, uncommon, or common in the shortgrass prairie? |

### Quiz Card #3

| Question 1: Identify the bird on square #16. | Question 2: What does this bird eat? | Question 3: How big is this bird? | Question 4: How does this bird hunt? |

### Quiz Card #4

| Question 1: Identify the bird on square #20. | Question 2: How is this bird special to the state of Colorado? | Question 3: Where does this bird nest? | Question 4: Is this bird rare, uncommon, or common? |

### Quiz Card #5

| Question 1: Identify the bird on square #24. | Question 2: Where does this bird nest? | Question 3: Is this bird nocturnal or diurnal? | Question 4: How big is this bird? |

### Quiz Card #6

| Question 1: Identify the bird on square 30. | Question 2: Where is this bird commonly found? | Question 3: Where is this bird found during the winter? | Question 4: How big is this bird? |
Lark Bunting
*Calamospiza melanocorys*
L 7" (18 cm)

Common; nests in prairies, especially near shrubs and cacti.

The Lark Bunting is the State Bird of Colorado.

Burrowing Owl
*Athene cunicularia*
L 9.5" (24 cm)

An owl of open country.

Ground dweller, often living in prairie dog burrows.

Nocturnal (active by night) and diurnal (active by day). Perches during daylight at entrance to burrow or on low post.
Long-billed Curlew
_Numetius americanus_
L 23” (58 cm)

Fairly common.

Nests in both wet and dry uplands.

In winter and migration, found on coastal and lake beaches, salt marshes, grainfields, and grasslands.

Loggerhead Shrike
_Lanius ludovicianus_
L 9” (23 cm)

Hunts in open or brushy areas, looking for insects or small mammals which it often impales on thorns or barbed wire to store for later eating.

Mountain Plover
_Charadrius montanus_
L 9” (23 cm)

Common in dry upland prairies and plains, semi-desert. In winter usually found on bare dirt fields.

McCown’s Longspur
_Calcarius mccownii_
L 6” (15 cm)

Fairly common, but has declined.

Nests in shortgrass prairie.

In winter can be found in plowed fields, dry lake beds.
Plains pricklypear

*Opuntia polyacantha*

Perennial. Low, spreading, fleshy plants commonly in clumps. Flowers yellow to orange.

Great Plains yucca

*Yucca glauca*

Perennial, 1-4 feet tall. Young plants and flowers sometimes eaten by livestock.
Make a mobile: Copy inside and outside of cover back-to-back. Color the Loggerhead Shrike, cut out the circle, and put a string through the hole to hang.

The Loggerhead Shrike catches and eats insects, rodents, snakes, and small birds. This bird is sometimes called a “butcherbird” and is known for its habit of impaling its prey on thorns or barbed wire to store it for later.

Head and back are bluish-gray, underparts white and very faintly barred. Broad black mask extends above eye and thinly across top of bill.

Loggerhead Shrike
*Lanius ludovicianus*

**Coloring key**
1 = black
2 = white
3 = bluish-gray

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**Answers to**
“Grasslands are home to birds”, page 5

1. There are 5 eggs in the Lark Bunting nest.
2. Burrowing Owls nest in abandoned prairie dog burrows.
3. Black-necked Stilts are waders, so they will be found in or near water.
4. Prairie Falcons are raptors. This one could be hunting for a meal.
5. The male Lark Buntings are skylarking.
6. The American Avocet’s bill curves upward.
7. There are 2 Western Meadowlarks in this picture.
The third bird is a Horned Lark.

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**Answers to**
“Life on the Prairie”, page 7

1. Prairie-chickens (Lesser Prairie-chicken, Greater Prairie-chicken)
2. Bluejay
3. Ducks and geese (Canada Goose, Cinnamon Teal, American Wigeon)
4. Killdeer
5. Mockingbird (Northern Mockingbird)