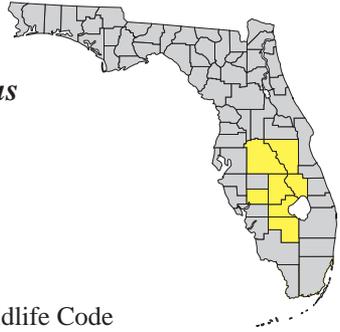


## FLORIDA GRASSHOPPER SPARROW

*Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*

<b>Order:</b>	Passeriformes
<b>Family:</b>	Emberizidae
<b>FNAI Ranks:</b>	G5T1/S1
<b>U.S. Status:</b>	Endangered
<b>FL Status:</b>	Endangered

U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act and state Wildlife Code prohibit take of birds, nests, or eggs.



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**Description:** Small sparrow with a relatively large, flat head and short tail. Pale median stripe on crown. Back streaked with brown and black. Adult has a buffy breast, while juvenile's breast is streaked.

**Similar Species:** Most similar to Henslow's (*Ammodramus henslowii*) and Le Conte's (*A. leconteii*) sparrows where some overlap of range occurs in winter. Adults of these two species have streaked breasts or sides, unlike the grasshopper sparrow. Bachman's sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*), which overlaps in habitat use, is larger, browner, round-headed, and has a long tail.

**Habitat:** Requires large areas of frequently burned dry prairie habitat, with patchy open areas sufficient for foraging. May persist in pasture lands that have not been intensively managed so as to remove all vegetation clumps.

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SPARROW**

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**Seasonal Occurrence:** Nonmigratory and year-round resident where breeds. Extremely sedentary.

**Florida Distribution:** Very narrowly restricted to the prairie and pasture region of south central Florida in Polk, Osceola, Highlands, and Okeechobee counties. Florida grasshopper sparrows have not been observed at previously known sites in De Soto and Glades counties in recent years. Former sites in Glades County were converted to more intensive uses, but extensive areas remain unsurveyed.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Same as for Florida distribution.

**Conservation Status:** All known populations occur on state and federal managed areas including Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area and Avon Park Air Force Range. The 1997 acquisition of Kissimmee Prairie State Preserve greatly increased the amount of protected dry prairie habitat in the state and resulted in the active management and monitoring of an additional grasshopper sparrow population. Effects of grazing on grasshopper sparrow populations is poorly known.

**Protection and Management:** Continue acquisition and restoration of prairie habitat. Develop incentives for ranchers to maintain their pastures in an “unimproved” state. Frequent fire regimes (1 - 3 years), preferably during the growing season, are needed to maintain suitable habitat.

**Selected References:** Delany et al. 1999, Poole and Gill (eds.) 1994, Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Rodgers et al. (eds.) 1996, Shriver et al. 1996, Stevenson and Anderson 1994.