

WHAT ARE THE STANDARD PROTECTION MEASURES THAT ARE REQUIRED?

The Seminole Tribe of Florida is required by the Federal Endangered Species Act to abide by standard measures adopted to protect this endangered bird:

1. A Florida grasshopper sparrow protection/education plan has been developed which requires training for all construction crews.
2. A qualified observer/biologist will be on-site for notification by construction personnel if a sparrow is sighted.
3. If a sparrow is found on the construction site, all activity must cease immediately, the qualified observer must be notified, and the bird allowed to move away from any dangerous area on its own.



WHO DO YOU CONTACT IF YOU SEE A FLORIDA GRASSHOPPER SPARROW ON THE RESERVATION?

Contact your direct supervisor

You may also contact:

Seminole Tribe of Florida's
Wildlife Biologist
Office: (863)902-3249 x13411
Cell: (954)410-7073



*Seminole Tribe of Florida
Environmental Resource
Management Department*

Florida Grasshopper Sparrow
Ammodramus savannarum



Protecting Tribal Resources

WHAT IS A FLORIDA GRASSHOPPER SPARROW?



The Florida grasshopper sparrow is a little-known, non-migratory sparrow found in the south-central prairie region of Florida. Because of its restricted distribution, loss of habitat, and population decline, the species is currently listed as endangered.

Often unnoticed or overlooked because of their small size and cryptic habits, grasshopper sparrows are usually heard before they are seen. From late March to July, males in Florida sing from perches on shrubs and grasses to maintain their breeding territories. The primary song consists of two or three weak introductory "tick" notes followed by an insect-like "buzz." A less frequent secondary song is a sustained rambling warble. Adults are sedentary, using the same territory during successive years.

HOW CAN YOU IDENTIFY A FLORIDA GRASSHOPPER SPARROW?



The Florida grasshopper sparrow is a small, short tailed bird about 5 inches long. They are mostly black, gray and lightly streaked with brown on the nape and upper back. Adults have no streak on their breast or throat, but are buff in color (top). Juveniles, on the other hand, have a streaked breast (bottom). The stripe over the eye is orange- yellowish in color and the bend of the wing is yellow. There is no obvious difference in plumage between males and female.



WHERE DO THEY NEST AND WHAT DOES THEIR HABITAT LOOK LIKE?

Nests are made of grass and are domed. They are usually located in a slight depression in the ground, well-concealed by clumps of dwarf live oak, wire grass, or saw palmetto. Nest site selection appears to be influenced by the availability of small clumps of dense vegetation. This is meant for protection within open areas needed for foraging and predator distraction displays. The female incubates three to five eggs for 11-12 days. Grasshopper sparrow eggs are creamy white with red-brown flecks on the large end. The young grasshopper sparrows are brooded or nurtured upon hatching for about eight days. A second or third nesting attempt may be made within the breeding season.



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU SEE A FLORIDA GRASSHOPPER SPARROW?

If you encounter a sparrow, avoid all contact with it. If you are driving a vehicle or heavy equipment, stop, cease operation and allow the bird to fly out of the area. Do not harm or harass the bird in any way. Please contact your supervisor or the number at the back of this pamphlet and report the location and circumstances.