

Grazing for Grassland Birds in California



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Regional Park District

Grassland birds in peril

- Reasons?
 - Conversion
 - Fragmentation
 - Degradation



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Degradation:

- Removal of livestock grazing as management choice



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Horned Lark



Phil Robertson



Roxanne Hulme Foss

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Western meadowlark



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Grasshopper sparrow



Rudy Darling

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Habitat requirements
(Source: peer-reviewed science papers)

Species	Livestock Grazing	Herbaceous Vegetation Height	Bare Ground	Residual Dry Matter Lbs./acre
Burrowing Owl	Heavy	8-12 in.	> 55%	500 ?
Ferruginous Hawk	Heavy	Low	?	?
Golden Eagle	Moderate to Heavy	Low	?	?
Northern Harrier	Ungrazed to Light	High	None	?
Western Meadowlark	Light to Moderate	Dense	?	?
Grasshopper Sparrow	Light to Moderate	Intermediate to Dense	<35%	?
Horned Lark	Heavy	Low	Positive	?



**The California Partners in Flight
Grassland Bird Conservation Plan:
A Conservation Decision Support Tool**

Ryan T. DiGaudio, Michele Hammond, Ed Pandolfino, Felix Ratcliff, and Geoffrey Geupel

This complex block contains the title and authors of a report. Below the text are three small photographs: a grasshopper sparrow perched on a branch, a cow grazing in a field, and a bird's nest in a grassy area. At the bottom left is the 'Point Blue' logo with the tagline 'Conservation science for a healthy planet.' At the bottom right is the 'California Partners in Flight' logo.