

***Ammodramus savannarum* (Grasshopper Sparrow)****Priority 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)**Class: *Aves* (Birds)Order: *Passeriformes* (Perching Birds)Family: *Emberizidae* (Bunting, Juncos, Longspurs, Sparrows And Towhees)**General comments:**

Exceedingly rare, four sites and perhaps declining even at our best site

**Species Conservation Range Maps for Grasshopper Sparrow:**Town Map: [Ammodramus savannarum\\_Towns.pdf](#)Subwatershed Map: [Ammodramus savannarum\\_HUC12.pdf](#)**SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:****Risk of Extirpation:**

Maine Status: Endangered

**State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern: NA****Recent Significant Declines: NA****Regional Endemic: NA****High Regional Conservation Priority:****Partners In Flight:**

Regional Species of Concern: Yes, United States and Canada Species of Concern: No, Regional Stewardship Species: No

**High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA****Understudied rare taxa: NA****Historical: NA****Culturally Significant: NA****Habitats Assigned to Grasshopper Sparrow:****Formation Name      Agricultural**

Macrogroup Name      Agricultural

Habitat System Name: Cultivated Crops    **Notes:** *Blueberry Barrens in S. Maine*Habitat System Name: Pasture-Hay    **Notes:** *Limited at best to low fertility sites anmd only in S. Maine***Formation Name      Developed**

Macrogroup Name      Maintained Grasses and Mixed Cover

Habitat System Name: Urban & Recreational Grasses    **Notes:** *Airfields***Formation Name      Grassland & Shrubland**

Macrogroup Name      Ruderal Shrubland &amp; Grassland

Habitat System Name: Ruderal Upland - Old Field    **Notes:** *but not too shrubby - S. Maine only***Stressors Assigned to Grasshopper Sparrow:**

Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability		Moderate Severity	High Severity
	Highly Actionable	Medium-High	High
	Moderately Actionable	Medium	Medium-High
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low	Low

## *Ammodramus savannarum* (Grasshopper Sparrow)

### Priority 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

**Class:** Aves (Birds)

**Order:** Passeriformes (Perching Birds)

**Family:** Emberizidae (Bunting, Juncos, Longspurs, Sparrows And Towhees)

**IUCN Level 1 Threat**      **Human Intrusions and Disturbance**

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Recreational Activities

**Severity:** Moderate Severity      **Actionability:** Highly actionable

**Notes:** Human use and abuse at Kittery Point

**IUCN Level 1 Threat**      **Natural Systems Modifications**

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Fire and Fire Suppression

**Severity:** Moderate Severity      **Actionability:** Highly actionable

**Notes:** Proper fire regime critical to maintaining species at Kittery Point, which is our largest population

**IUCN Level 1 Threat**      **Other Options**

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Lack of knowledge

**Severity:** Moderate Severity      **Actionability:** Highly actionable

**Notes:** Vital rates

**IUCN Level 1 Threat**      **Residential and Commercial Development**

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Commercial and Industrial Areas

**Severity:** Moderate Severity      **Actionability:** Highly actionable

**Notes:** Airfield management practices

**IUCN Level 1 Threat**      **Residential and Commercial Development**

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Housing and Urban Areas

**Severity:** Moderate Severity      **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Tourism and Recreational Areas

**Severity:** Moderate Severity      **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

### Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Grasshopper Sparrow:

*\*Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

**Conservation Action**      **Category:** Habitat Management      **Biological Priority:** high      **Type:** on-going  
Maintain known nesting areas in native grasses, little bluestem, or low-growing shrubs like lowbush blueberry and prevent conversion to other land uses

**Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action**

Commercial and Industrial Areas

Housing and Urban Areas

**Conservation Action**      **Category:** Habitat Management      **Biological Priority:** moderate      **Type:** new  
Restore old gravel pits and agricultural fields to grasslands and low shrubs

**Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action**

Commercial and Industrial Areas

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<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Survey and Monitoring	<b>Biological Priority:</b> critical	<b>Type:</b> on-going
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Continue to monitor populations at Kennebunk Plains and the former Naval Air Station in Brunswick

**Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action**

Fire and Fire Suppression

<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Survey and Monitoring	<b>Biological Priority:</b> high	<b>Type:</b> new
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Expand monitoring effort to other potential or previously occupied sites (Sanford Airport, Wells Barrens, Poland Spring fields)

**Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action**

Commercial and Industrial Areas

<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Research	<b>Biological Priority:</b> critical	<b>Type:</b> new
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Conduct research on population status, productivity levels, and limiting factors at indiv sites, and use this information to update a Population Viability Analysis

**Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action**

Lack of knowledge

<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Research	<b>Biological Priority:</b> high	<b>Type:</b> new
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Assess effects of past and present management practices at the Kennebunk Plains by comparing with longterm population data by management unit over time

**Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action**

Lack of knowledge

<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Habitat Management	<b>Biological Priority:</b> critical	<b>Type:</b> new
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Conduct landscape analysis to determine potential for other sites for this species, what management would be necessary, and current ownership

**Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action**

Lack of knowledge

<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Public Outreach	<b>Biological Priority:</b> critical	<b>Type:</b> new
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Contact landowners at formerly occupied (Wells, Sanford) and potential sites (near Poland) to examine opportunities for habitat enhancement and management of species.

**Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action**

Commercial and Industrial Areas

**Conservation Actions Associated with the Grassland Guild:**

<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Public Outreach	<b>Biological Priority:</b> high	<b>Type:</b> new
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Develop a program to inform small landowners of the best methods for keeping fields open for grassland wildlife

**Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action**

Livestock Farming and Ranching

<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Species Management	<b>Biological Priority:</b> high	<b>Type:</b> new
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Develop a BMP guide for farmers to minimize negative effects of cutting hay/silage during the grassland bird nesting season. NRCS recommendations should be viewed as a start with increased emphasis on timing, field size, and bird behavioral cues.

**Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action**

Livestock Farming and Ranching

**Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:**

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Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

#### **Habitat Based Conservation Actions:**

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

*The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.*