Grazing for Grassland Birds in California

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Grassland birds in peril
- Reasons?
  - Conversion
  - Fragmentation
  - Degradation

Degradation:
- Removal of livestock grazing as management choice

Horned Lark
- Phil Robertson
- Roxanne Hulme Foss

Western meadowlark
- Emanuel Miller

Grasshopper sparrow
- Rudy Darling
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10/20/2016

Michele Hammond, Presenter
CCRC Fall 2016 Meeting

Grazing for Grassland Birds

• Manage for mosaic of grassland habitat
• Manage for native grassland plants
• More California studies!

Habitat requirements
(Source: peer-reviewed science papers)

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

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 Gaupp