AMMODRAMUS HENSLOWII

BY SHARON BEALS

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Contemporary
United States
Henslow's Sparrow
Ammodramus henslowii

Falls Church, Virginia, collected 1899
American Museum of Natural History

A small, inconspicuous sparrow once common on tallgrass prairies in the Midwest and wet grasslands of eastern North America, the females weave loose, deep cups placed under the cover of or attached to the stems of tall grasses. Much of their breeding habitat has been lost to large scale farming and mining, and their wintering grounds are being cleared with fire, or converted to pine forests. They are listed as an Endangered species in Canada and in 7 states in the U. S. but a few restored mining sites and habitat preserves provide safe breeding grounds and a vision of what could save them, along with other prairie dependent species.
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