Oregon Ranking Form  Oregon vesper sparrow (Pooecetes gramineus affinis)  Oregon Biodiversity Information Center

**SPECIES ASSESSED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Pooecetes gramineus affinis</th>
<th>ELCODE</th>
<th>ABPBX95011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common Name</td>
<td>Oregon vesper sparrow</td>
<td>Element ID</td>
<td>6721</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Species Concept Reference Citation**


**Assigned Rank**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assigned Rank</th>
<th>S1B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Rank Assignment Author**

E. Gaines

**Rank Factors Author**

E. Gaines

**Calculated Rank**

S1

**Rank Methodology Used**

Rank calculator v.3.1x - 2011-2015 rank factors

**Assigned Rank Reasons**

Small, declining, and isolated populations, significant threats due to habitat loss or degradation.

**RANGE/DISTRIBUTION**

**Range Extent**

Rating: 20,000-200,000 square km (about 8000-80,000 square miles)

**Estimate**

Approximately 30,000 sq km

**Unit Used for Estimate**

Approximately 30,000 sq km

**Comments**

Found in the Willamette Valley and Klamath Mountains ecoregions, and at scattered sites along the coast.

**Area of Occupancy**

**Grid Cell Size**

4 km² Grid Cells

**Rating (as Number of 4 km² Grid Cells)**

F = 126-500

**Comments**

Restricted to grassland and savannah habitats in lowland valleys, and montane meadows in the Klamath Mountains ecoregion (Altman 2017). Currently nearly extirpated from the Willamette Valley floor and northern Willamette Valley. Small populations along the coast.

**ABUNDANCE AND CONDITION**

**Rating**

1 - 20

**Estimate**

3

**Comments**

Only 3 known extant EOs.

**Rating**

1000 - 2500 individuals

**Estimate**

2000

**Comments**

2020 statewide population estimate of 2000, Klamath Bird Observatory.

**Number of Occurrences with Good Viability/Ecological Integrity**

**Rating**

**Number of Protected and Managed Occurrences**

B = Few (1-3) occurrences appropriately protected and managed

Printed on 2/19/2020
Many remaining populations are on private lands.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat Category Code</th>
<th>Threat Category</th>
<th>Calculated Impact</th>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Agriculture &amp; aquaculture</td>
<td>D = Low</td>
<td>Restricted: Affects some (11-30%) of the total population or occurrences or extent</td>
<td>Moderate: Likely to moderately degrade/reduce affected occurrences or habitat, or reduce population 11-30%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Annual &amp; perennial non-timber crops</td>
<td>D = Low</td>
<td>Restricted: Affects some (11-30%) of the total population or occurrences or extent</td>
<td>Moderate: Likely to moderately degrade/reduce affected occurrences or habitat, or reduce population 11-30%</td>
<td></td>
<td>Conversion of grassland habitat to agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Invasive &amp; other problematic species, genes &amp; diseases</td>
<td>C = Medium</td>
<td>Large: Affects most (31-70%) of the total population or occurrences or extent</td>
<td>Moderate: Likely to moderately degrade/reduce affected occurrences or habitat, or reduce population 11-30%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>Invasive non-native/alien species/diseases</td>
<td>C = Medium</td>
<td>Large: Affects most (31-70%) of the total population or occurrences or extent</td>
<td>Moderate: Likely to moderately degrade/reduce affected occurrences or habitat, or reduce population 11-30%</td>
<td></td>
<td>degredation of habitat to invasive vegetation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Climate change &amp; severe weather</td>
<td>B = High</td>
<td>Large: Affects most (31-70%) of the total population or occurrences or extent</td>
<td>Serious: Likely to seriously degrade/reduce affected occurrences or habitat, or reduce population 31-70%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>Habitat shifting &amp; alteration</td>
<td>B = High</td>
<td>Large: Affects most (31-70%) of the total population or occurrences or extent</td>
<td>Serious: Likely to seriously degrade/reduce affected occurrences or habitat, or reduce population 31-70%</td>
<td></td>
<td>Continued loss/degradation of savannah and grassland habitats (conversion to agriculture, succession to woody veg; Altman 2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Natural system modifications</td>
<td>C = Medium</td>
<td>Large: Affects most (31-70%) of the total population or occurrences or extent</td>
<td>Moderate: Likely to moderately degrade/reduce affected occurrences or habitat, or reduce population 11-30%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Oregon Rank Form  
**Oregon vesper sparrow (Pooecetes gramineus affinis)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Threat Impact</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>Fire &amp; fire suppression</td>
<td>C = Medium</td>
<td>Moderate: Likely to moderately degrade/reduce affected occurrences or habitat, or reduce population 11-30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1.2</td>
<td>Suppression in fire frequency/intensity</td>
<td>C = Medium</td>
<td>Moderate: Likely to moderately degrade/reduce affected occurrences or habitat, or reduce population 11-30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Calculated Overall Threat Impact**  
A = Very high

**Assigned Overall Threat Impact**  
A = Very high

**Overall Threat Impact Comments**

Primary threats include habitat loss to agricultural conversion, encroachment of woody vegetation, and invasive vegetation (Altman 2017). This subspecies is also threatened by small, disjunct populations and is vulnerable to stochastic events and loss of genetic diversity.

**Short-Term Trend Rating**  
EF = Decline of 10-50%

**Estimate**  
30%

**Comments**

30% decline between 2010 and 2020 per Klamath Bird Observatory Oregon Vesper Sparrow Project.

**Long-Term Trend Rating**  
CD = Decline of 50-80%

**Comments**

Large long term declines, approximately 4% annually since 1968 (Sauer et al. 2014, Altman 2017).

**Intrinsic Vulnerability Rating**  
Moderately vulnerable

**Comments**

Remaining populations are often small and fragmented, vulnerable to extirpation.

**Other Rank Considerations**

Remaining populations are often small and fragmented.