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Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla*

The Field Sparrow occurs largely within the confines of the United States, from the Great Plains eastward. It is a familiar species of open country, particularly overgrown fields.

Habitat. The habitat of the Field Sparrow consists of shrubby, brushy, or early successional vegetation with little tree cover. Nestlings are fed solely soft-bodied invertebrates, but adults also consume the seeds of grasses and other plants, in addition to insects (Bent 1968).

Nests are well concealed and built near the ground in a sapling, shrub, or vine. The nest is built of grasses and forbs and lined with fine materials. The 3 to 5 eggs are pale greenish-bluish white (Ehrlich et al. 1988), marked with brown. Incubation is usually 12 days, and the young fledge at 7 to 8 days of age.

Seasonal Occurrence. Breeding occurs from early April to mid-August and may include 3 broods per season (Ehrlich et al. 1988). The bird is often seen migrating from April through May and again in September and October.

Status. Although the Field Sparrow is a fairly common winter resident throughout much of the northern half of Florida, in the breeding season it is restricted to the Panhandle and the extreme northern peninsula. This sparrow is a rare to uncommon breeder in Florida, becoming more common into central Georgia and Alabama northward. Breeding records occur from Walton County east to Columbia and Gilchrist counties, with 1 record in Nassau County. Breeding was confirmed in only 2 quadrangles, probably because most quadrangles in its range were only briefly surveyed. The Field Sparrow's song is distinctive, but it can be missed by those who cannot hear the plaintive whistles that usually end in a high, rapid trill.

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Field Sparrow

