

## ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

Below is a brief summary of a recent publication from the scientific literature. This summary is intended to bring the findings of ornithological research conducted in Alabama and in northwest Florida to a larger audience.

**Site fidelity of wintering Henslow's Sparrows.** S. M. Plentovich, N. R. Holler, G. E. Hill. 1998. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 69:486-490.

Little information is known about winter site fidelity (i.e., staying and/or returning to the same site) in any of North America's grassland sparrow species. This paper reports on winter site fidelity in the Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) in Baldwin County, Alabama. The study sites were on loblolly and longleaf pine forested lands that were harvested in 25-30 year rotations. The highest densities of Henslow's Sparrows were found at sites that had been cut and/or burned the previous year and had been left undisturbed for one growing season. In February and March of 1995, 22 Henslow's Sparrows were trapped at ten sites with mist nets over a period of 21.5 hours. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service aluminum band was placed on each bird's leg. No individuals were recaptured in 1995. In January and March of 1996, 30 individuals were captured and banded during 46.75 trapping hours on five of the sites used in 1995 (other sites had been altered and no longer provided habitat for Henslow's Sparrows), as well as an additional four sites. No individuals that were banded in 1995 were recaptured in 1996. In 1996, thirteen individuals were recaptured a total of 20 times. All recaptures occurred at the original banding site and no movement among sites was noted. A decrease in the recapture rates, as well as an increase in unbanded birds were observed and suggests that Henslow's Sparrow migration may begin at this time. The authors conclude that Henslow's Sparrows are site faithful within the same season, but found no evidence that they were site faithful among years. [Department of Biology, 331 Funchess Hall, Auburn University, Alabama 36849-5414.] — TMH