

R2 Sensitive Species (SS)

Recommendations and Evaluations

Common Name: Cassin's Sparrow

Scientific Name: *Aimophila cassinii*

Recommendation: R2 Sensitive Species (SS)

Recommendation Rationale:

Breeding Bird Survey data indicate a significant population decrease in North America between 1966 and 1989 (Droege and Sauer 1990). Colorado and Kansas show a highly significant downward trend. However, numbers fluctuate markedly from year to year. Cassin's Sparrow needs higher structured grasslands that is traditionally lost during intensive grazing. Grasslands considered the most at risk habitat in R2 at the present time. Transformation of grasslands into scrubland may be one of the most serious threats facing Cassin's Sparrow. Land management practices often eliminate shrub vegetation, particularly in Colorado.