

# Florida Grasshopper Sparrow Internship

## Passionate about Passerines? Join our Flock!

The Florida grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*) is one of the most endangered birds in North America. Since 2019, White Oak has bred and released over 1,000 sparrows. White Oak's minimal handling management model has led to sparrows that survive post-release and thrive, continuing future generations in the wild. This recovery program has robust partnerships with organizations including the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Interns experience this conservation program first-hand, working side-by-side with staff at White Oak. Focusing on *ex situ* animal care, interns work with sparrows through breeding seasons and winters, maintaining habitats, completing daily care needs and conducting observations. While interns see field team members and wildlife biologists during their internship, interns are not guaranteed the opportunity to observe the *in-situ* aspects of the program that are managed by partner organizations.

The Florida Grasshopper Sparrow Conservation Internship requires a high degree of flexibility and a commitment to the assigned schedule and duties of the program. We are proud to have graduates who now work in field crews, zoological facilities, or who have pursued higher education in graduate programs focused on conservation.



## Apply Here!

### Career-Ready Skills & Learning Opportunities

Interns are provided with a variety of technical skills and knowledge that makes them excellent candidates for roles in conservation facilities such as:

- Diet preparation, insect management, feeding, and cleaning
- Bird introductions and management
- Observation skills and knowledge of sparrow behavior, including identifying vocalizations and tracking individual birds by colored band
- Safe avian capture, hand restraint, and transportation
- Habitat maintenance including landscaping and fabrication
- Research skills including sample collection, camera trapping, video monitoring, rigorous daily data management, and reporting
- General reintroduction techniques including pre-release conditioning
- Artificial incubation and hatching (*Summer only*)
- Egg management and candling (*Summer only*)
- Hand-rearing passerines as needed (*Summer only*)
- Non-chemical fire ant control methods (*Winter only*)
- Prescribed fire techniques and participation (*Winter only*)



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## Application Dates & Housing Information

Florida Grasshopper Sparrow Internships have a commitment length of **6 months**. Applications must be submitted online. Incomplete applications, or applications submitted outside of a recruitment window, will not be considered.

- **Winter Term:** September - February
  - *Applications open in **June***
- **Summer Term:** March - August
  - *Applications open in **October***

Interns receive on-site housing during the internship. Housing is not available for spouses/partners/dependents. Pet housing is on a case-by-case basis, and restricted to animals that can be housed in small aquariums/tanks.

Furniture, linens, towels and kitchen supplies including cookware, flatware, and dishes are provided. Interns will be assigned weekly chores, and may be assigned a roommate of the same gender.

**Questions?** Please email [Training@white-oak.org](mailto:Training@white-oak.org) for assistance.



**Apply Here!**

## Eligibility Requirements

- Preference for recent college graduates or early career professionals
- Previous avian experience required, passerine handling and mist-netting experience preferred
- Keen eyesight to identify small birds and bands from a distance
- Good hearing ability to differentiate soft/quiet sounds and calls
- Hold a valid driver's license and health insurance
- Able to pass a drug test upon starting
- Legally able to work in the United States (US Citizen, Permanent Resident, or hold an Employment Authorization Document)
- Able to work well independently and in a team environment
- Able to work evenings, weekends and holidays
- Experienced and comfortable working outside in high heat and humidity
- Strong attention to detail and data management skills
- High drive to learn, take on challenges, and stay motivated
- Be flexible to changing environments, priorities, or animal care needs
- Able to lift 50 lbs. repetitively, and remain standing, walking or crouched over for long periods of time
- Able to work 40 hours per week for the duration of the internship

