

Species of the Month

Bell's Sage Sparrow

Artemisiospiza belli



Bell's Sage Sparrow

- Medium-sized sparrow with a round head, short bill, and long tail
- Has white eye ring, and black-and-white mustache
- Ranges throughout the western United States and northwestern Mexico
- Found in sagebrush habitat, saltbush, chamise, and other low shrubs of the arid west
- When nesting in chaparral they prefer areas that have been thinned by recent fires
- Diet is comprised of seeds and insects during the breeding season and mostly seeds in the non-breeding season



Bell's Sage Sparrow

- Spend most of the time foraging on the ground
- Males will perch on the tops of scrubs to sing during breeding season
- Nest in scrubs and occasionally will ground nest
- Lay 1-4 eggs
- Incubate from 10-16 days
- Predators include ravens, ground squirrels and roadrunners



Monitoring and Management

- Monitor distribution at least once every 8 years
- Maintain species presence and continued use at 75% of identified locations
- Include in the MSHCP conservation Area 245,750 acres of suitable habitat
- Include in the MSHCP Conservation Area at least 12 of the 14 Core areas and interconnecting Linkages
- Monitoring objectives have been met for this species
- Reserve assembly is ongoing
- MSHCP conservation area includes at least 12 of the Core Areas called out for Bell's sage sparrow



Thank You



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