

# GRASSLAND BIRDS



Savannah Sparrow

Bobolink



Eastern Meadowlark

Grassland birds have declined more than birds in any other habitat over the last 50 years, and several, including the Bobolink, are at an increased risk of localized extinction. The main drivers of these declines are the intensification of haying and the abandonment and development of former agricultural lands.




Mass Audubon



## Let's Connect.

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## HELPING LAND MANAGERS PROTECT GRASSLAND BIRDS

Bobolinks are declining throughout their range, which spans from the Great Plains to the farmlands of the Northeast. In New England, Bobolinks and other grassland species breed in hayfields, which are often hayed during the breeding season.

The Bobolink Project provides funding and technical assistance to farmers and landowners to help them incorporate bird-friendly haying timelines and other practices into their management plans.

# A CLOSER LOOK INTO A HAYFIELD



Bobolinks nest on the ground in open habitats, where they are vulnerable to disturbance. They are edge-averse, meaning that they nest in the interior of fields, where they are safe from predators. Nests are often placed under the shelter of forbs and are notoriously difficult to find. Haying results in nearly 100% mortality of nestlings.



## LINKING CONSERVATION-MINDED DONORS TO CONSERVATION-MINDED FARMERS TO CONSERVE GRASSLAND BIRDS

The Bobolink Project collects and redistributes donations to farmers through our bidding process. We accept bids on hayfields that are over 20 acres in size. We prioritize fields that are adjacent to other protected lands and aim to protect the greatest amount of high-value habitat possible.

## HOW WILL WE HELP?

### Financial Support

The Bobolink Project provides funding to support the adoption of bird-friendly field management practices.

### Technical Support.

We monitor nesting birds, identify hotspots in fields, identify invasive species, provide management recommendations, and help to troubleshoot problems that arise

### Community.

We offer field-based educational programs and provide opportunities to connect with other farmers in the program.