

Newfoundland & Labrador Species at Risk

Status: **Vulnerable (SSAC)**
Threatened (COSEWIC)

Bobolink

(*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)

- The Bobolink is a medium-sized songbird.
- Breeding males have a black face and underparts with white to gray shoulders, lower back, and rump. The back of their head is straw-colored and their bill is glossy black.
- Females have buffy underparts with black streaks on their sides, back, and under the tail. The top of their head is striped black and buff with a pale bill.
- Only the male bobolink sings, producing a long and complex song.



Fall Plumage



Breeding Plumage

Provincial Distribution



Habitat/ Range

Bobolink are known to breed in grasslands and hayfields. In Newfoundland, they are rare and localized breeders found in hayfields, farmlands, salt marshes, and in grassy fields surrounded by trees.

Population Trends

Although little is known of Bobolink population trends for Newfoundland, global populations have been declining at a rate of 10-30%/year. There has been a decline in suitable Bobolink habitat in Newfoundland over the last number of years.

Limiting Factors and Threats

Natural grasslands are rare in Newfoundland, keeping populations naturally low. Nest predation and loss of nests due to adverse weather conditions are threats in other parts of their range; however, in Newfoundland habitat loss and degradation may be threats. Hayfields are also being harvested more frequently throughout the year than in the past, interfering with Bobolink breeding.

Special Significance

Male Bobolinks are the only birds in the Americas that are black underneath and white on top, helping them stand out during breeding displays.

You can help protect the Bobolink:

- Report any sightings to the Wildlife Division.
- Participate in bird surveys and counts.
- Support habitat protection for all of our rare species.

Department of Environment & Conservation

Wildlife Division

Endangered Species & Biodiversity

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