

The Status of
Bobolink
(*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)

in Newfoundland and Labrador



Bobolink (Fall plumage), Cape Race, October 12, 2008

Photo by Ken Knowles

**THE SPECIES STATUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 22**

October 14, 2009

RECOMMENDED STATUS

Recommended status: Vulnerable	Current designation: None
Criteria met: Criteria b and d.	
“BUT” Statement: Criterion met for “Endangered”, D1, <u>but</u> , since the Bobolink is at the extreme limit of its range in Newfoundland, and since there appears to be a good prospect of rescue from adjacent jurisdictions, the “Endangered” category was rejected as being too narrow in its application. The next applicable category was “Vulnerable”.	
Reasons for designation: Qualifies as vulnerable under criteria b and d: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the species is likely to become Threatened if factors suspected of negatively influencing the persistence of the species are neither reversed nor managed with demonstrable effectiveness• the species qualifies for Threatened status but there is clear indication of rescue effect from extra-limital populations	

The original version of this report was prepared by Kathrin J. Munro and was subsequently edited by the Species Status Advisory Committee.

STATUS REPORT

Dolichonyx oryzivorus, Linnaeus, 1758
Bobolink; Goglu des prés

Family: Icteridae (Blackbirds and Orioles)

Life Form: Bird (Aves)

Distribution

Global:

North America (excluding Canada):

United States: Breeds primarily in the northern and middle states, with a number of outlying breeding localities: central and northeastern Washington, eastern Oregon, Nevada, Arizona, Montana, Idaho, northern Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, northern Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, eastern West Virginia, western Virginia, western Maryland, Pennsylvania, northern New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine (Martin and Gavin, 1995). (Figure 1)

Saint-Pierre et Miquelon (France): May breed on Langlade (W. A. Montevecchi, unpublished data).

South America: Winters in south-central South America east of Andes primarily from eastern Bolivia and southwestern Brazil through Paraguay and northeastern Argentina to Buenos Aires (Pearson, 1980; Martin and Gavin, 1995; Pettingill, 1983; Ridgely and Tudor, 1989; Canevari *et al.*, 1991; Sick, 1993). (Figure 2)

Europe: A small number of non-breeding records from Europe, including several from the British Isles, Gibraltar, France, Italy and Norway (Dubois, 1989; Cramp and Perrins, 1994).

National: (Figure 1)

Breeds in most regions of southern Canada: southern British Columbia, southeastern Alberta, southern Saskatchewan, southern Manitoba,

southwestern and southeastern Ontario, southern Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and insular Newfoundland (Cadman *et al.*, 1987; Semenchuk, 1992; Cyr and Larivée, 1995)

Provincial: (Figures 3 and 4)

Insular Newfoundland: Occurs widely. Known to breed in southwestern Newfoundland. Evidence of breeding also in western Newfoundland, Gander area, Bonavista area, and on the northeastern and southeastern Avalon Peninsula.

Labrador: No known populations.

Annotated Global Range Maps

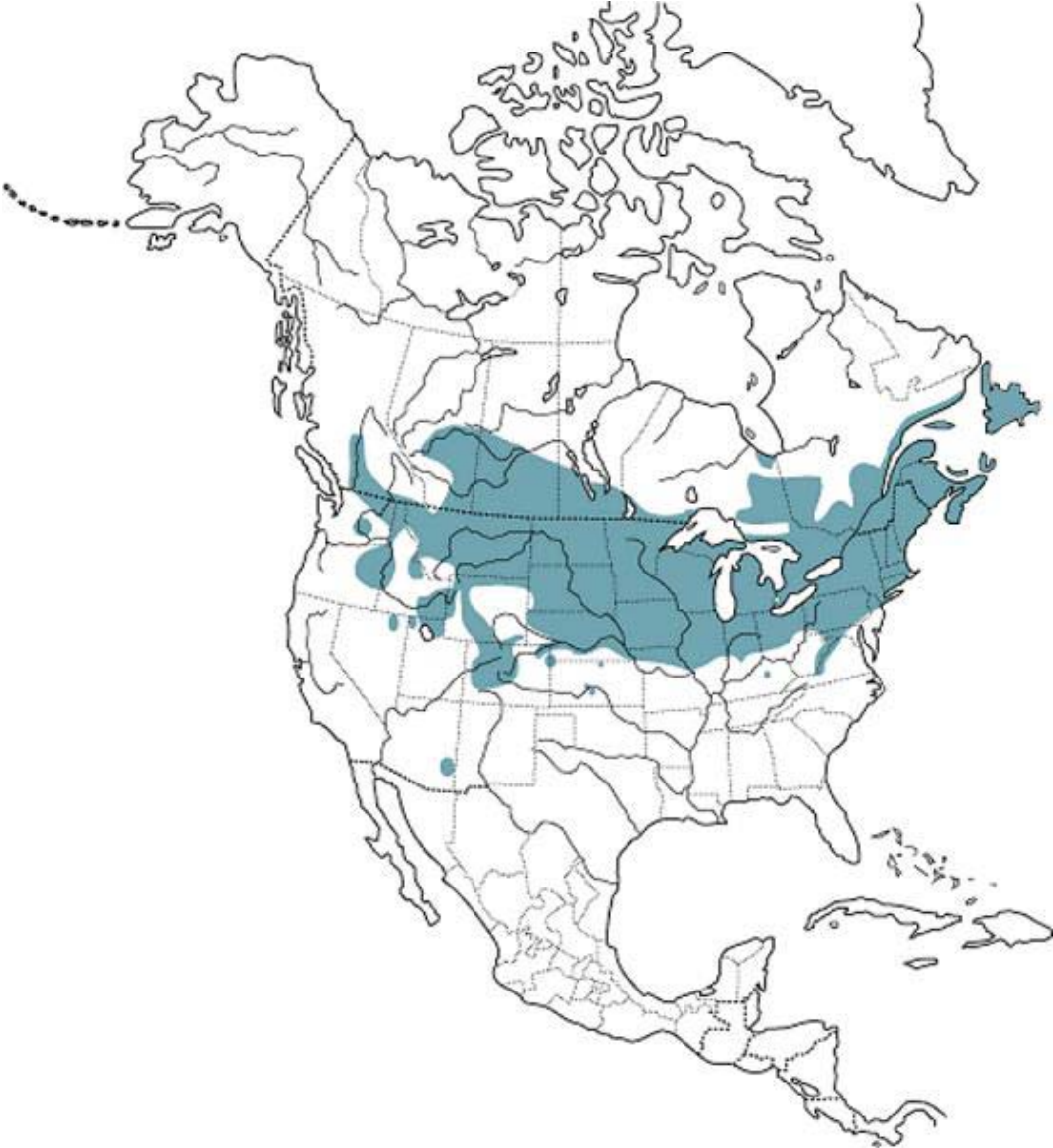


Figure 1. North American breeding distribution of the Bobolink (modified after Martin and Gavin, 1995, used with permission; with additional Newfoundland data).

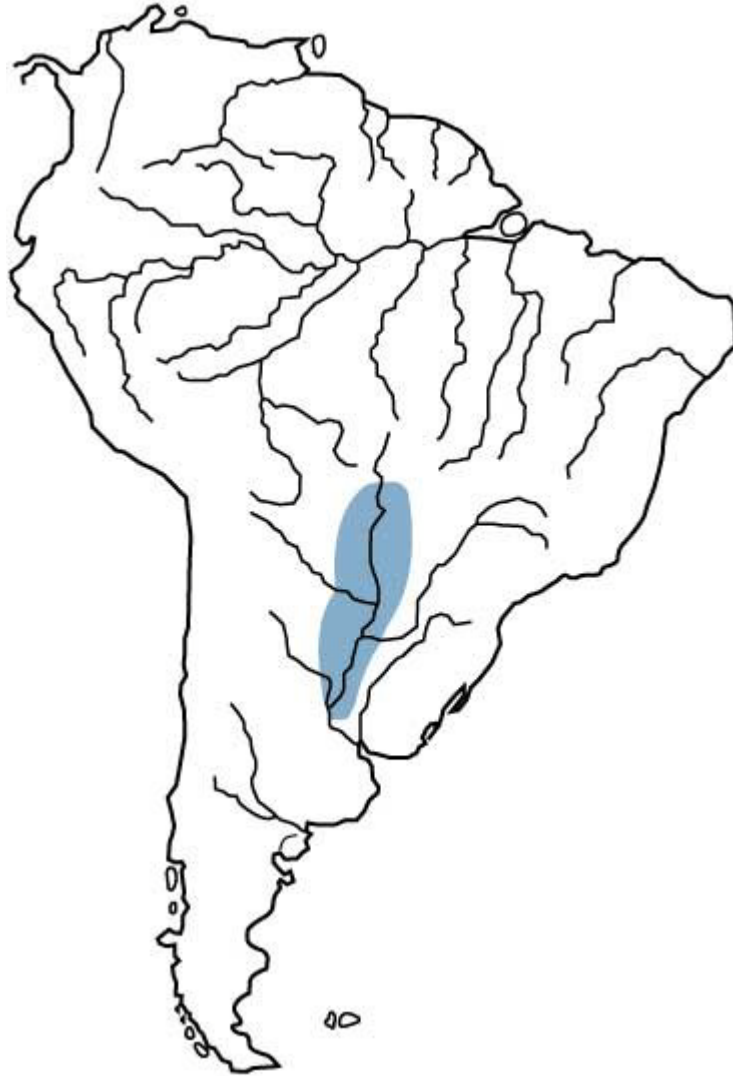


Figure 2. South American wintering distribution of the Bobolink (Martin and Gavin, 1995, used with permission)

Annotated Provincial Range Map

Annotated Range Map For Newfoundland & Labrador

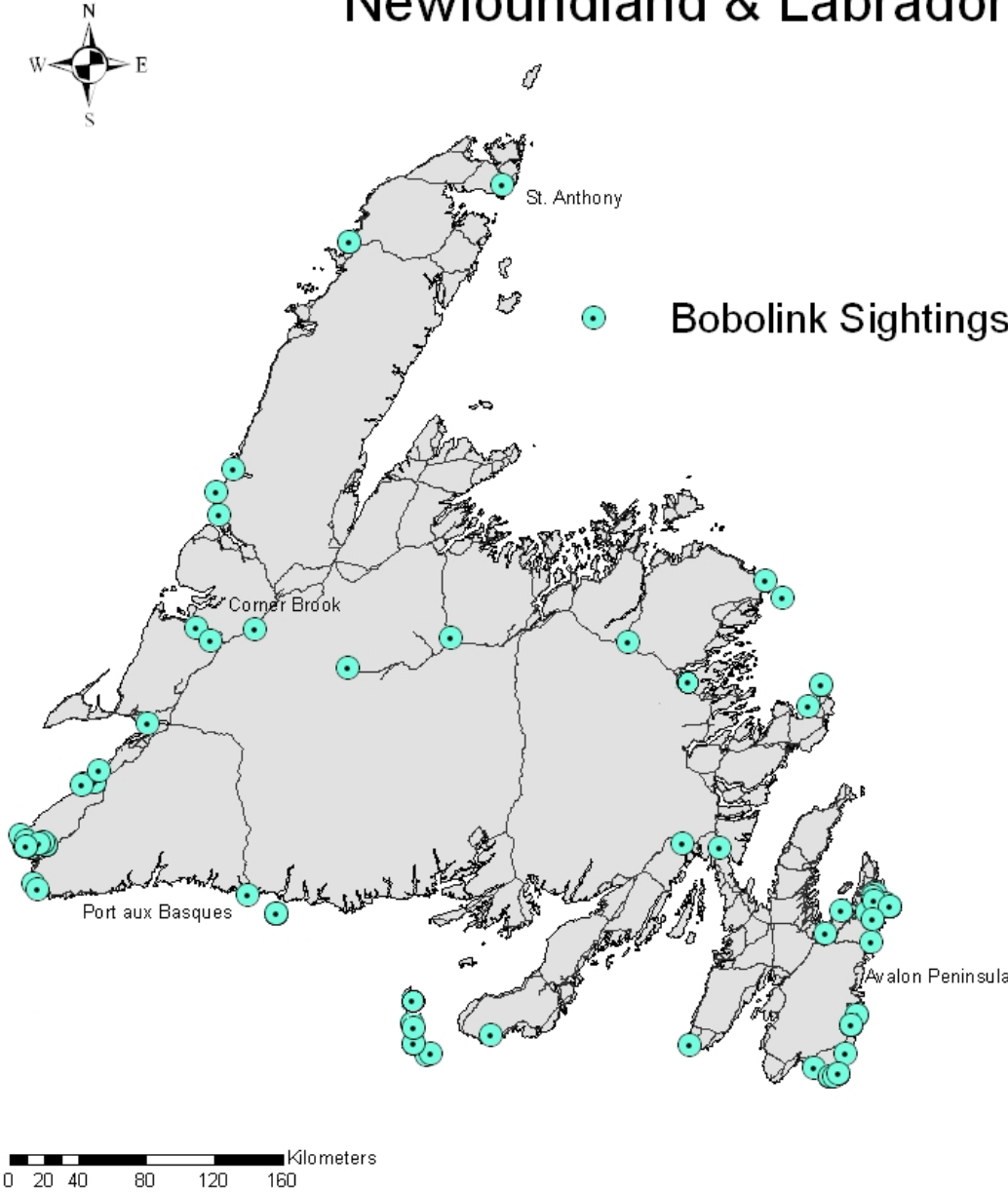


Figure 3. Known occurrence localities for Bobolinks in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Annotated Range Map For Newfoundland & Labrador

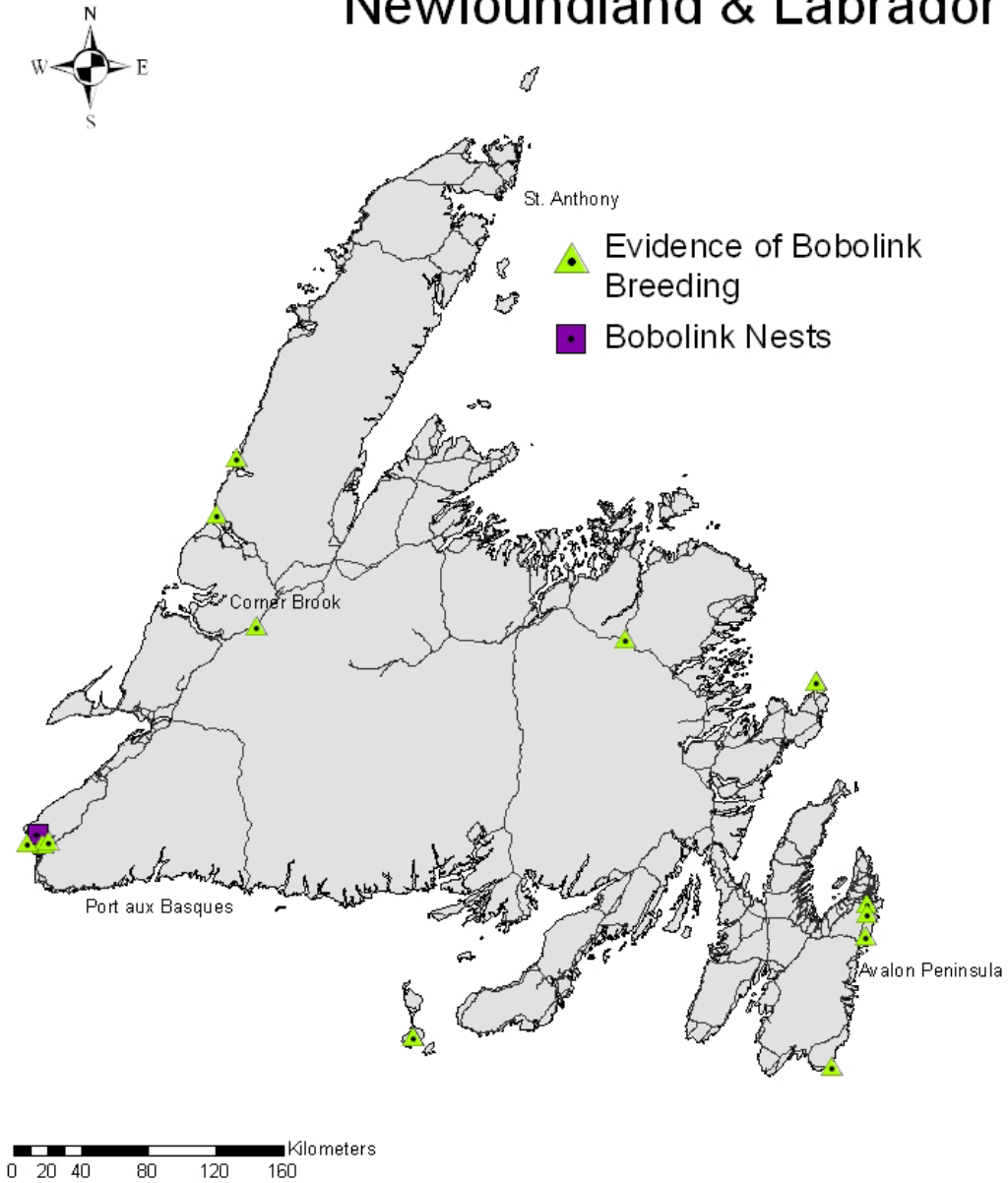


Figure 4. Known and suspected breeding localities for Bobolinks in Newfoundland and Labrador. Suspected breeding status is based upon singing birds, observed pairs, and birds carrying food.

Description

The Bobolink is a small [New World blackbird](#) and the only member of the genus *Dolichonyx*. Morphologically, vocally, and behaviorally conspicuous during the breeding season. Total length 15.2-20.5 cm; male mass 34-56 g, female mass 29-49 g. Rigid, sharply pointed retrices and long hind toenails. Bill short and conical, iris brown. Sexes dimorphic in breeding plumage but similar in Fall plumage. Male breeding plumage unusually striking: front of head, underparts, tail and wings black; scapulars, lower back, rump, and upper-tail coverts white to pale grey; broad, buff nuchal collar; glossy black bill. Males molt into Fall plumage in mid-August, before leaving the breeding range. Female underparts yellowish buff, streaked dusky or black on sides, flanks, and undertail-coverts; upperparts buffy olive, streaked with black. Distinctive broad, buffy median stripe on top of head; bordered on each side with a pronounced brownish or blackish stripe. Side of head yellowish olive with prominent black postocular line. Immatures resemble females but are generally more yellow (Martin and Gavin, 1995). The molt of the Bobolink can actually be a bit more complex than indicated above; see Martin and Gavin (1995) for additional details.

Habitat

Preferred breeding habitat is tall-grass or mixed-grass prairie, and open hay fields. The species also breeds in grass-sedge fields along river bottomland, and in irrigated meadows in arid climates. After leaving the nesting fields, birds seek the shelter of freshwater marshes and coastal areas to molt. Winter range habitat includes grasslands, marshes, and rice and sorghum fields (Martin and Gavin, 1995). Natural grasslands are rare in Newfoundland, thus the Bobolink is naturally rare.

On insular Newfoundland, Bobolinks are rare and localized breeders, owing in part to limited suitable nesting habitat. They are observed almost every June in hayfields on the south shore of the Codroy Estuary, between the junction of the road to Loch Lomond and the bridge at Upper Ferry. They have been regularly recorded in farmland around The Goulds and Kilbride on the Avalon Peninsula. In Pasadena, they have been observed in hay fields, mostly in un-cut areas. Near Cow Head, they have been seen in salt marshes (W. A. Montevecchi, unpublished data). The habitat surrounding a nest found near the Grand Codroy River was described as an open, grassy field surrounded by deciduous trees (G. Greenlee, Newfoundland Nest Record Card).



Figure 5. Bobolink habitat in the Codroy Valley (Canadian Wildlife Service photo).

Overview of Biology

Bobolinks are highly migratory, traveling to south-central South America each autumn, making a round-trip of approximately 20,000 kilometres, and then returning to the breeding grounds in May.

They are capable of breeding in their second year and attempt to do so every year. There is normally only one brood per year. Clutch size ranges from 1 to 7, with a mode of 5 (Martin, 1974). First clutches have a higher fledging success than attempted renests, with an average of 4 young fledged from first nests, but only approximately 2 young fledged from second nests (Martin, 1971). Recapture studies have regularly recorded individuals as old as 8 years (Bollinger, 1988). However, Gavin recorded one bird that was at least 9 years old (see: Martin and Gavin 1995).

Both sexes show high breeding-site fidelity (Martin, 1971). Previous reproductive success seems to be a major factor influencing this fidelity (Gavin and Bollinger, 1988). Nothing is known about winter site fidelity.

In high-quality habitats, male Bobolinks are often polygynous, copulating with multiple females. The extent of polygyny in Newfoundland is unknown. Breeding

territories of males with multiple partners may be as large as the territories of several solitary males combined, becoming larger when nestlings fledge.

Bobolink eggs and nestlings are preyed upon by American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), and cats and dogs. Bobolink fledglings are also taken by Ring-billed Gulls. Increased predation is thought to occur when hay fields are mowed earlier and more often, leaving nests (ie. those not destroyed by the mowing) exposed (Bollinger *et al.*, 1990).

During the breeding season, Bobolinks are solitary feeders, consuming weed seeds, larval and adult insects, spiders, and harvestmen. During migration and the winter period, they feed on wild and domesticated rice, oats and other small grains, corn, weed seeds, and occasionally insects. Young are fed invertebrates exclusively (Martin and Gavin, 1995). In post-fledging groups on nesting fields and on wintering grounds, the young flock together and engage in highly social feeding behaviour (Martin and Gavin, 1995).

In Newfoundland, Bobolinks arrive in mid-May. Sightings are most common in June (W. A. Montevecchi, unpublished data). One Newfoundland Nest Record Card exists for the Bobolink (Randy Batten, Provincial Museum, pers. comm.). The nest, located in a grass-lined depression in the ground, was found on June 26, 1969 in Doyles. Four eggs were in the nest and two were on the ground beside it. When the nest was re-checked on June 30, 1969, no eggs had hatched.

Bobolinks are observed annually until late October to mid-November (W. A. Montevecchi, unpublished data).

Population Size and Area of Occupancy

The Bobolink has a large global range of 20,000-2,500,000 km² (Nature Serve, 2008). It also has a large global population estimated to be 11,000,000 individuals (Rich *et al.*, 2004). Mean densities (males/km²) are 33 ± 24 for mixed grass prairie; 26 ± 19 for tall grass prairie; and 91 ± 70 for New York hayfields (Breeding Bird Survey, 2007). Highest quality hayfields in New York support on average 120 ± 81 males/ km² (Bollinger and Gavin, 1992).

Newfoundland is on the fringe of the Bobolink's range. This, in addition to the lack of suitable breeding habitat, is thought to explain the rarity of Bobolinks in our area (P. Linegar, pers. comm.). While only one nest has actually been located in Newfoundland, the consistent annual presence of Bobolinks in suitable nesting habitat, as well as observations of singing birds, obviously-mated pairs, and birds carrying food, strongly suggest that a number of pairs breed on the Island every year.

Nonetheless, P. Linegar (pers. comm.) suggests that there are only about a dozen or so nesting pairs in the farming districts of Newfoundland, with isolated nesting pairs elsewhere on the Island. The extent of polygyny in Newfoundland, and its possible effect on the total number of nests, is unknown.

The territory size of this species ranges between 0.49 and 2.0 hectares (Martin and Gavin, 1995). Using these numbers as a rough proxy, and employing an estimated population size of <20 pairs (see above), a rough AO may be calculated to be <9.8-40 hectares (= <0.098 – 0.4 km²).

Aboriginal, Traditional and Local Ecological Knowledge

The Federation of Newfoundland Indians and the Council of Conne River Mi'kmaq Band were contacted but no information was obtained.

Trends

Globally, Bobolink populations have lately been declining at a rate of 10-30% per year (NatureServe). These numbers are cause for considerable concern.

Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data show significant declines for the period between 1980 and 2007, (BBS; 2007). More specifically, in eastern Canada, BBS data shows significant declines for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec, between 1987 and 2007 (CWS, 2007).

For Newfoundland, BBS data (BBS; 2007) show the following, given that there are significant gaps in all of the data sets:

St. John's BBS: inconclusive, one bird recorded in 1986

Bonavista BBS: inconclusive, one bird recorded in 1983

Lawn BBS: inconclusive, one bird recorded in 1982

O'Regan's BBS: a noticeable peak in 1982, followed by a significant decline; low levels consistent after about 1997; data missing prior to 1980, and between 1984 and 1995

St. David's BBS: an apparent peak in 1981, followed by an apparent decline; data missing prior to 1980, and between 1984 and 2006

In Newfoundland, there has been a decline in farmland acreage over the last number of years. As a result, there has been a decline in Bobolink habitat. Habitat

decline has been particularly significant in the Kilbride and Goulds areas south of St. John's, because of the turning of large areas of farmland into housing developments. A general decline in farming in the Codroy Valley through the mid-1900's resulted in many grassland areas reverting to shrubland (L. Bateman pers. comm.) However, in more recent years, the local dairy industry in the Valley has boomed. Hundreds of fallow acres have been leased from retired farmers, and hundreds of additional acres have been cleared for new hay land and corn fields. In the past 10 years or so it is thought that the amount of open grassy habitat in the Codroy Valley has actually doubled (P. Baird, pers. comm.). However, despite the recent developments in the Codroy Valley, BBS data show no recent population increases.

Threats and Limiting Factors

Throughout the Bobolink's range, predation on eggs and nestlings, and the loss of nests to adverse weather and flooding, are likely the most significant mortality factors (Martin and Gavin, 1995).

However, a general decline in the area of hay fields, an increase in the area of alfalfa fields (a vegetation type not normally used by Bobolinks), and changes in field management, are probably also responsible for recent global population declines. Hay fields are now generally cut 2-3 weeks earlier than they were in the 1940s and 50s (cutting green hay instead of ripe hay), with mowing now coinciding with the peak nesting period (Bollinger, 1988). In one study, 100% of nests with eggs and young nestlings affected by mowing were abandoned or destroyed (Bollinger *et al.*, 1990).

In Newfoundland, the main threat is probably habitat loss and/or a decline in habitat quality; except, it seems, in recent years, in the Codroy Valley area. An additional threat is likely associated with the fact that hay is being harvested earlier than it was 20 or more years ago. In Newfoundland, hay is now typically cut two or three times per year (late June, July, and August/early September), instead of once (in August) (P. Baird, pers. comm).

On wintering grounds in South America the birds are considered agricultural pests. Global population declines may be at least partly linked to the extermination of birds on South American farmland and the sale of male Bobolinks in the local pet trade (Sick, 1993).

Existing Protection

The Bobolink is protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act (Canadian Wildlife Service, 1991). It is further protected in Gros Morne National Park, J. T.

Cheeseman Provincial Park, the reserve area attached to the Grand Codroy R. V. Camping Park (now private; formerly a provincial park), Cape Spear National Historic Site, Cape St. Mary's Seabird Ecological Reserve, Pippy Park (St. John's), Bowring Park (St. John's), and a few other protected and private areas.

Special Significance

To date, no known special significance exists for this species.

Collections Examined

None.

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Personal Communications:

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Batten, Randy. Natural History Collections Manager, Provincial Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Rooms, St. John's, NL. P.O. Box 1800 Stn. C. A1C 5P9. January 14, 2009. Email: randybatten@therooms.ca ; keeper of the Newfoundland Nest Record Scheme files.

Gallant, Roger. Aquatic Biologist, Federation of Newfoundland Indians. P.O. Box 956 Corner Brook, NL. A2H 6J3. Phone: (709) 634-9896 Email: roger@fni.nf.ca

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Rank or Status

Global	
G-rank	G5 (Secure)
IUCN	LC (Least concern)
National	
N-rank	N5B (Secure-breeding)
National General Status	Secure (4)
COSEWIC	Not yet assessed
Provincial	
Provincial General Status	May be at risk (2)
Newfoundland S-rank	Imperiled breeding (S2B)
Newfoundland General Status	May be at risk (2)
Labrador S-rank	Rank not applicable (SAN)
Labrador General Status	Vagrant
Adjacent Jurisdictions	
Nova Scotia S-Rank	S3B (Vulnerable-breeding)
Nova Scotia General Status	Sensitive (3)
Prince Edward Island S-Rank	S3B (Vulnerable-breeding)
Prince Edward Island General Status	Sensitive (3)
New Brunswick S-Rank	S3B (Vulnerable-breeding)
New Brunswick General Status	Sensitive (3)
Québec S-Rank	S4 (Apparently secure)
Québec General Status	Secure (4)

(Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council (CESCC). 2006. Wild Species 2005: The General Status of Species in Canada; Wildlife Division, Newfoundland and Labrador; NatureServe)

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Distribution and Population Information	Criteria Assessment
<i>Extent of occurrence (EO)(km²) (breeding)</i>	104,000 km ² (based on known and suspected breeding range)
<i>Area of occupancy (AO) (km²) (breeding)</i>	Calculated as <0.098 – 0.4 km ² on the basis of the total area of breeding territories (see text)
<i>Number of extant locations (breeding)</i>	<20 breeding localities suspected; one nesting location confirmed
<i>Specify trend in # locations, EO, AO (decline, stable, increasing, unknown) (breeding)</i>	unknown
<i>Habitat trend: specify declining, stable, increasing or unknown trend in area, extent or quality of habitat</i>	Area and quality probably increasing in the Codroy Valley, but both apparently declining elsewhere in Newfoundland; all of these changes being primarily human-mediated
<i>Generation time (average age of parents in the population) (indicate years, months, days, etc.)</i>	unknown; maximum age ≥9 years
<i>Number of mature individuals (capable of reproduction) in the Provincial population (or, specify a range of plausible values)</i>	<40 (this number may be complicated by possible polygyny)
<i>Total population trend: specify declining, stable, increasing or unknown trend in number of mature individuals or number of populations</i>	an apparent decline following 1981-1982; population may now be relatively stable at a very low level (although data are sparse)
<i>Are there extreme fluctuations (>1 order of magnitude) in number of mature individuals, number of locations, AO and/or EO?</i>	No
<i>Is the total population severely fragmented (most individuals found within small and isolated populations)</i>	Yes
Rescue Effect (immigration from an outside source)	
<i>Does species exist elsewhere?</i>	Yes
<i>Status of the outside population(s)?</i>	Declining globally
<i>Is immigration known or possible?</i>	Yes
<i>Would immigrants be adapted to survive here?</i>	Yes
<i>Is there sufficient habitat for immigrants here?</i>	Unknown

Appendix A. Population Information

Historical Verified Occurrences/Range Use (recorded prior to the last 25 years)

Collection from Cape Broyle, 1958 (see: Peters and Hewitt 1958)

Canadian Museum of Nature:

Specimen: CMNVA 77897. June 12, 1981. Collector/Observer: Poulin, Richard M [Near Upper Ferry.] 47.85°N, 59.25°W. Sex: M; Preparation Type: skin

Provincial Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador, Natural History Unit:
Newfoundland Nest Record Card CWS 8-80 (3-69). Chignic Lodge, Mollychignic Brook, Codroy Valley, June 26th and 30th, 1969.

Other Observations (Unverified)

Record from eBird: St. John's, north end (47.5884°N, 52.7233°W), June 23, 1976 (accessed via Canadian Museum of Nature Bird Collection: Bobolink Records).

BBS record: Lawn. From Breeding Bird Survey (2007).

Table 1. Occurrence of Bobolinks in Newfoundland and Labrador during the past 25 years (W. A. Montevecchi, Memorial University, unpublished data).

Day	Month	Year	Location	Observer	Count	Comments
29	June	1984	Cape Bonavista	B. Mactavish, J. Wells	1	singing
24	September	1984	Kent's Pond	B. Mactavish	unknown	
7	October	1984	Ramea	B. Mactavish, B. Maybank	unknown	
2	June	1985	Plum Point-Brig Bay	J. & I. Gibbons, C. Samson	unknown	
late	June	1985	Kilbride	C. Brown, M. Parmenter	12+	
5	November	1985	Long Beach	B. Mactavish	unknown	
18	May	1986	Codroy Valley	<i>fide</i> B. Mactavish	unknown	
23	May	1986	Gros Morne National Park	<i>fide</i> B. Mactavish	unknown	
23	May	1986	Plum Point-Brig Bay	J. & I. Gibbons, C. Samson	unknown	

31	May	1986	Kilbride	<i>fide</i> B. Mactavish	2	males
	summer	1986	Kilbride	M. Parmenter	several	in fields
19	July	1986	Conception Bay South	R. Burrows	unknown	
31	August	1986	Codroy Valley	B. Maybank	3	
12	September	1986	Cape Spear	B. Mactavish, B. Maybank	unknown	
24	May	1987	Pippy Park, St. John's	L. Noseworthy	1	male "bubbling"
28	May	1987	St. Anthony	D. Sutcliffe	1	male
2	June	1987	Ramea	R. Northcott	unknown	
13	June	1987	O'Regan's	K. Moore, M. Pitcher	2	pair; fencerow meadow
16	July	1987	Codroy Valley	B. Mactavish	20	10 males, 10 females; flock in fresh cut hayfield; common in area
10	October	1987	Cape Spear	J. Wells; many observers	unknown	
29	May	1988	Gillams	B. Roberts	1	male
29	May	1988	Kilbride	J. Pratt, D. Lemon	unknown	
4	June	1988	Upper Ferry	R. Burrows	1	female
	summer	1988	West Coast	R. Burrows	unknown	seen on several regular locations
early	July	1988	Kilbride	D. Phelan	a few	male
4	July	1988	St. Fintan's	J. Pitocchelli	unknown	
17	July	1988	Wigeon Pond, Codroy Valley	B. Roberts	"field full"	
26	September	1988	Blackhead	B. Mactavish	unknown	
	fall	1988	Buchans	<i>fide</i> R. Burrows	unknown	
31	May	1989	Kilbride	P. Linegar, B. Mactavish	3	singing
early	June	1989	Kilbride/Goulds	<i>fide</i> R. Burrows	unknown	
2	June	1989	Larry's Bog, St. John's	R. Burrows	unknown	
12	June	1989	Wigeon Pond, Codroy Valley	K. Moore	2	
4	September	1989	Cape Race	many observers	unknown	
10	September	1989	Blackhead	C. Brown	unknown	
13	May	1990	Ramea	R. Northcott	2	male
9	June	1990	Codroy Valley	R. Burrows	many	
~7	July	1990	Mouth of John's Pond River, near Gander	N. Soper	2	pair
18	August	1990	lower Codroy Valley	P. Lehman	7	
24	May	1991	Pasadena	B. Roberts	2	imm.; male
26	May	1991	Searston	R. Burrows	1	male

31	May	1991	Holyrood	G. Yetman	unknown	
late	July	1991	Kilbride	B. Mactavish, K. Knowles	lots	6 males, females, lots singing
8	October	1991	Cape Ray	B. Mactavish, S. Tingley	unknown	
9	October	1991	J. T. Cheeseman Provincial Park	B. Mactavish, S. Tingley	unknown	
16	May	1992	Codroy Valley	E. Goudie, T. Burke	1	male
22	May	1992	Ramea	R. Northcott	unknown	
30	May	1992	Cormier's Marsh, Grand Codroy	E. Goudie, many observers	2	males
2	June	1992	Cormier's Marsh, Grand Codroy	E. Goudie, many observers	1	male
3	June	1992	Cormier's Marsh, Grand Codroy	E. Goudie, many observers	1	male
4	June	1992	island off Grand Codroy Provincial Park	D. Doyle, E. Goudie	1	male
14	June	1992	Cormier's Marsh, Grand Codroy	S. Ryan, A. Skinner	1	male
15	June	1992	Cormier's Marsh, Grand Codroy	S. Ryan, A. Skinner	2	males
15	June	1992	Ogosnen's Dairy, shore to Gut, Grand Codroy	A. Skinner	1	male
16	June	1992	Cormier's Marsh, Grand Codroy	E. Goudie	unknown	
17	June	1992	Muddy Hole Brook, Grand Codroy	S. Ryan	1	male
17	June	1992	Grand Codroy Provincial Park	A. Skinner, E. Goudie	2	male
18	June	1992	Grand Codroy Provincial Park	A. Skinner, E. Goudie	2	male
19	June	1992	Muddy Hole Brook, Grand Codroy	D. Doyle, E. Goudie	unknown	
23	June	1992	Cormier's Marsh, Grand Codroy	D. Doyle, S. Ryan, A. Skinner	2	
29	June	1992	Cormier's Marsh, Grand Codroy	D. Doyle, S. Ryan, A. Skinner	2	
30	June	1992	Grand Codroy Provincial Park	A. Skinner	1	male
1	July	1992	Loch Lomond	D. Doyle	12	
1	July	1992	Shoal Pond, Grand Codroy	S. Ryan, A. Skinner	1	male
2	July	1992	Cormiers Marsh, Grand Codroy	S. Ryan, A. Skinner	2	
2	July	1992	Grand Codroy Provincial Park	S. Ryan	unknown	
	September	1992	Mundy Pond	R. Burrows	unknown	
17	October	1992	Bear Cove Point	P. Linegar, J. Wells	2	
9	October	1993	Long Beach, Cape Race	B. Mactavish, K. Knowles	unknown	

~18	June	1994	mouth of Brooms Brook	J. Pratt	1	wet field; singing
21	June	1994	O'Regan's	L. Bateman	unknown	BBS
~25	June	1994	Codroy Valley	J. Briffett, Natural History Society	unknown	
7	September	1994	Alder Alley, Cape Spear	B. Mactavish	unknown	
30	September	1994	Cape Race	D. Fifield, B. Mactavish	unknown	
26	August	1995	Ramea	R. Northcott	1	female
8	October	1995	Renews	I. Jones	unknown	
29	May	1996	Ramea	R. Northcott	unknown	
23	June	1996	O'Regan's	L. Bateman	4	
22	September	1996	Bear Cove	I. Jones	3	
21	May	1997	Cape Anguille	P. Jones	3	
~28-30	May	1997	Corner Brook	R. Butt		in yard
31	May	1997	Forest Pond, Goulds	K. Knowles	1	male
26	June	1997	Ramea	R. Northcott	unknown	
9	September	1997	mouth of Grand Codroy River	P. Jones	unknown	
14	September	1997	Renews Beach	B. Mactavish, many observers	unknown	
27	September	1997	Cape Race	B. Mactavish	unknown	huddled on cliff side
30	May	1998	Forest Pond, Goulds	J. Pratt	unknown	singing
5-8	June	1998	Codroy Valley	T. Boland, many observers	unknown	
14	June	1998	Codroy Valley	L. Bateman	[1]	BBS
29	September	1998	Cape Race	<i>fide</i> J. Pratt	unknown	
23	May	1999	Renews	J. Chidley	2	
late	August	2000	Ruby Line, Goulds	A. Ruby	unknown	
7	October	2000	Cappahayden	J. Pratt, many observers	unknown	
mid-	November	2005	Cape Spear	T. James	unknown	
early	June	2008	Codroy Valley	B. Mactavish	"above average number"	

Table 2. Occurrence of Bobolinks in Newfoundland and Labrador prior to the last 25 years (W. A. Montevecchi, Memorial University, unpublished data).

Day	Month	Year	Location	Observer	Count	Comments
9	June	1956	Cape Broyle	R. Harper	1	male
n/a	summer	1960	Codroy	R. Harper	unknown	
28	May	1963	St. Anthony	M. McNeill	1	male
4	October	1964	Codroy	L. M. Tuck	1	immature, capture and release

5	June	1965	Burgeo	H. J. Reid	unknown	
30	May	1967	Ramea	H. J. Reid	1	male
3	September	1967	Ramea	H. J. Reid	1	immature female
17	October	1967	Burgeo	Dr. Calder	2	
30	May	1968	Ramea	H. J. Reid	unknown	male
5	June	1968	Upper Ferry	C. L. Burry?	1	male
5	June	1968	Upper Ferry	B. Jackson	several	singles
20	June	1968	Ramea	H. J. Reid	1	female
n/a	summer	1968	Loch Leven	Darroch McGillivray	unknown	
1	September	1968	Ramea	H. J. Reid	2	immature, female
19	May	1969	Codroy	J. Learning, J. Maunder	2	male, female
31	May	1969	Pasadena	W. Skinner	unknown	
16	June	1969	Pasadena	W. Skinner	2	
26,30	June	1969	Codroy	G. Greenlee	unknown	nest, 6 eggs (4 in nest, 2 on ground)
29	June	1969	Badger	S. Tingley	1	male
n/a	summer	1969	Codroy	G. Greenlee	at least 5 pairs	1 nest
11	September	1969	Ramea	H. J. Reid	unknown	
4	June	1970	Ramea	H. J. Reid	1	male
25	August	1970	Corner Brook	"IS"	pair	
n/a	early June	1971	Highlands	G. Ryan	1	male
22	August	1971	near Bowring Park, St. John's	J. Wells, H. Clase	17	flock in large field
17	May	1972	Sunnyside	W. Rockwood	1	dying
30	May	1972	Newman's Cove	G. Ryan	1	male
21	June	1973	Pasadena	J. Wells	1	male
30	June	1973	Pasadena	B. Mactavish	11 males, 4 females	in hay field
1	July	1973	Pasadena	B. Mactavish	9 males, 1 female	
10	July	1973	Pasadena	B. Mactavish, L. M. Tuck, J. Wells	2 pairs	half field mowed; bird/s carrying food
14	July	1973	Pasadena	B. Mactavish	10 males, 6 females	in uncut part of field
17	July	1973	Pasadena	B. Mactavish	3 males	
29	August	1973	Codroy	L. M. Tuck	7	
9	September	1973	Ramea	H. J. Reid	1	immature
15	May	1974	St. John's	unknown	unknown	
1-2	June	1974	Glovertown	M. L. Purdy	2	males
14	June	1974	Lobster Cove	"S. R. C."	1	male, singing
7	July	1974	Pasadena	L. M. Tuck, P. Elias	4	2 pairs
8	July	1974	McKay's	L. M. Tuck, P. Elias	a few	heard
8	July	1974	Robinsons	L. M. Tuck, P. Elias	A few	heard
9	July	1974	Robinsons	L. M. Tuck, P. Elias	2	pair

3	September	1974	Ramea	H. J. Reid	unknown	
16	September	1974	Ramea	H. J. Reid	unknown	
23	May	1975	near Cape Race	R. Cannings	1	male, singing
23	May	1976	Cape St. Mary's	R. Cannings	unknown	
9	June	1976	St. Paul's Inlet	M. Parmenter	several	
n/a	mid-June	1976	Codroy	M. Parmenter	numerous	
1	June	1977	St. John's	D. Barton	1	male
25	June	1977	St. John's	L. M. Tuck	1	male, singing
17	September	1977	Stephenville Crossing	R. Burrows	unknown	
5	July	1979	Codroy	"T. E."	unknown	
16	July	1979	Swift Current	I. Goudie	unknown	
n/a	summer	1979	Cow Head	M. Parmenter	unknown	breeding; salt marsh
29	May	1980	Terra Nova National Park	R. Burrows	unknown	
4	June	1980	O'Regan's	J. Wells, C. Brown, W. A. Montevecchi	4	singing; BBS
7	June	1980	Robinsons	J. Wells, C. Brown, W. A. Montevecchi	unknown	
7	June	1980	Highlands	J. Wells, C. Brown, W. A. Montevecchi	unknown	BBS
28	June	1980	Grand Codroy River, near Millville	M. Parmenter	many	
20	October	1980	Renews	P. Linegar, J. Wells	unknown	
5	June	1981	Chance Cove	P. Linegar	5	
n/a	late June	1982	Middle Cove	J. Green	1	male
29	May	1983	Witless Bay	H. J. Reid	unknown	
23	September	1983	Cape Spear	B. Mactavish	2	
25	September	1983	Mundy Pond	M. Parmenter	1	female
25	September	1983	Cape Spear	M. Parmenter	unknown	

Table 3. Incidental sightings of Bobolinks in Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, France.

Day	Month	Year	Location	Observer	Count	Comments
17	May	1972	Miquelon	"F. R. P."	1	male
13	June	1973	St. Pierre	M. Borotra	1	male
23	May	1974	St. Pierre	R. Etcheberry	unknown	
16	June	1974	Langlade	R. Etcheberry	2	pair
23	May	1986	St. Pierre	M. Derible	1	male
31	May	1986	Isthmus of Miquelon	R. Etcheberry, M. Derible	2	male
1	June	1986	Miquelon	R. Etcheberry	3	females
24	June	1986	Langlade	R. Etcheberry	1	male; singing
30	May	1987	Isthmus of Miquelon	R. Etcheberry	1	female
	summer	1987	Langlade	R. Olivier	2	pair, probably nesting
17	October	1987	Isthmus of Miquelon	M. Borarta	1	female

3	September	1993	Miquelon	R. Etcheberry	unknown	
22	September	1993	Miquelon	R. Etcheberry	unknown	

Table 4. Incidental sightings of Bobolink in Newfoundland and Labrador from nf.birds website.

Day	Month	Year	Location	Observer	Count	Comments
30	May	1998	Forest Pond	<i>fide</i> T. Boland	1	
7	June	1998	Codroy	T. Boland, many observers	unknown	
26	September	1998	Cape Race	T. Boland, many observers	1	
23	May	1999	Plum Point	J. Gibbons	1	first in approx 10 yrs
15	September	1999	Cabot Island	J. K. Butler	1	
3	October	1999	Long Beach	T. Boland	1	
3	October	1999	Cappahayden	T. Boland	2	
9	October	1999	Cape Spear	A. Hughes	1	
9	October	1999	Long Beach	Unknown	1	
9	October	1999	Renews Beach	T. Boland	1	
13	October	1999	Cape Spear	T. Boland, D. Fifield	1	
19	September	2000	Mundy Pond	D. Fifield	1	female/imm.
29	May	2002	Glovertown	K. Stroud	1	male
27	June	2002	Cape Spear	D. Phelan	1	male
12	October	2002	Cape Race	B. Mactavish, P. Linegar, J. Wells	1	
3	June	2003	Blackhead	D. Fifield	1	female
10	June	2004	Codroy	M. Romer	1	
13	June	2004	Upper Ferry (Codroy)	A. Hughes, P. Linegar	1	
17	June	2004	Upper Ferry (Codroy)	J. Clarke	2	pair
19	June	2004	Codroy	M. Parmenter	1	
5	September	2004	Cripple Cove, Cape Race	B. Mactavish, K. Knowles	1	
14	November	2004	Cape Spear	<i>fide</i> B. Mactavish	1	
18	June	2005	Codroy	M. Vassallo	2	
2	July	2005	Doyles	T. Boland, G. & K. Stroud	2	carrying food
23	October	2005	Cape Race	D. Shepherd, K. Knowles, J. Wells	1	
3	June	2006	Codroy	B. Mactavish, many observers	3	2-m; 1-f
9	June	2006	Codroy	T. Boland	1	
10	June	2006	Codroy	M. Vassallo, many observers	1	

24	June	2006	Cape Bonavista	D. Burton	1	singing
1	June	2007	Cape Race	C. Doran	1	singing
8	June	2007	Codroy	D. Brown, J. Harding	4	
12	July	2007	Cape Race	C. Doran	1	female
4	October	2007	Mundy Pond	A. Hughes, S. Lorenz	1	female
5	October	2007	Cape Race	B. Mactavish, K. Knowles, P. Linegar	1	
28	October	2007	Long Beach, Cape Race	J. Harding, D. Brown	1	female
24	May	2008	Sally's Cove	D. Major	1	male
6	June	2008	Upper Ferry/Loch Lomond	T. Boland, A. Hughes	unknown	seen and heard
1-11	June	2008	Codroy	D. Brown, J. Harding	10 to 12	
14	June	2008	Codroy	M. Vassallo	2	
6	July	2008	Broad Cove	W. Crocker	1	male
7	September	2008	Chance Cove	A. Huges, T. Boland, C. Brown	1	Fall plumage
18	October	2008	Cappahayden	J. Clarke	2	

NOTE: All records retrieved from the group NF.Birds, at <http://groups.google.ca/group/nf.birds/>

Recent Search Effort (areas searched within the last 25 years with estimate of effort)

This province has been searched by ornithologists and birders for almost two centuries (for a comprehensive account see: Montevecchi and Tuck, 1987), and interest in birds remains high. Birding groups across the Island, Christmas Bird Counts, breeding bird surveys, the nf.birds Internet discussion group, birders hotlines, and other sources of up-to-date information show the high degree of interest that birds continue to inspire within the Province. The lack of records for Bobolink in Newfoundland and Labrador is not due to a lack of effort.

Potential Sites Unexplored

Based on GIS layers of the agricultural areas of Newfoundland and Labrador, there appear to be several small areas of unexplored farm land in central Newfoundland, the western Avalon Peninsula and south of Terra Nova National Park.