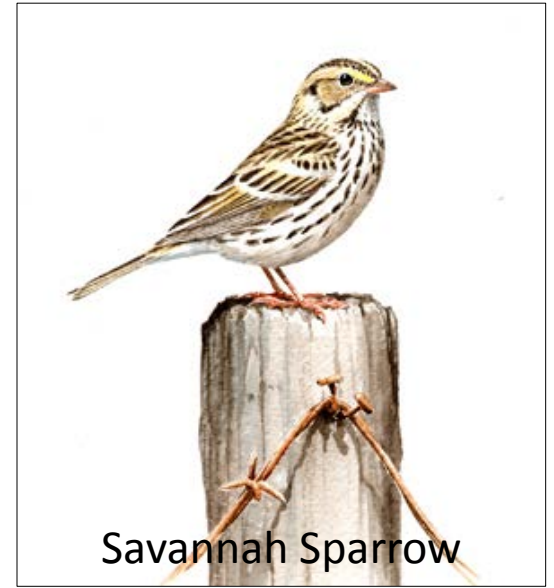




Eastern Meadowlark



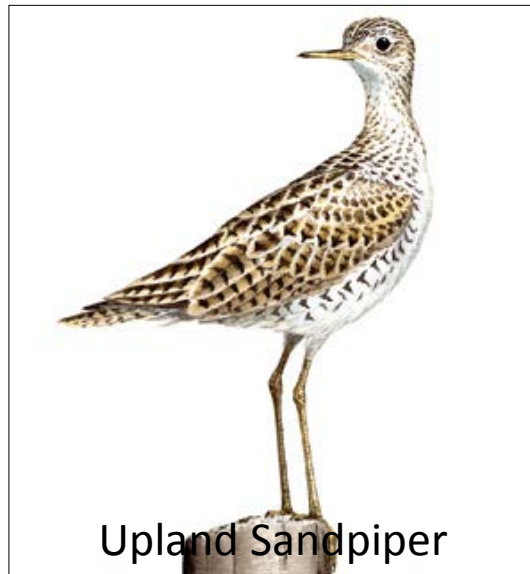
Bobolink



Savannah Sparrow



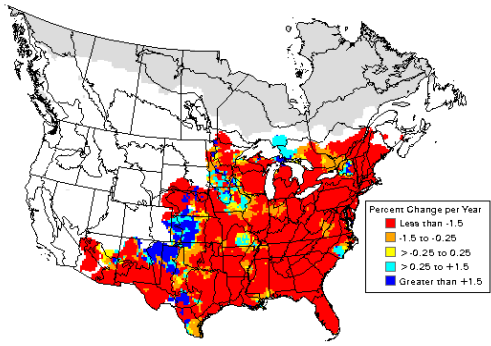
Grasshopper Sparrow



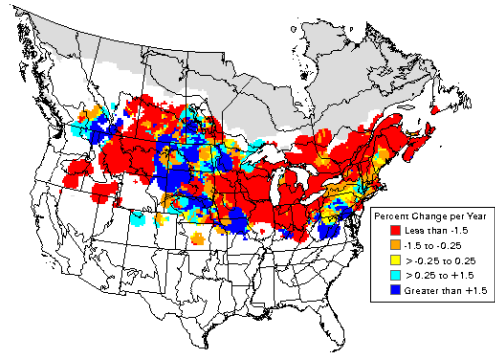
Upland Sandpiper



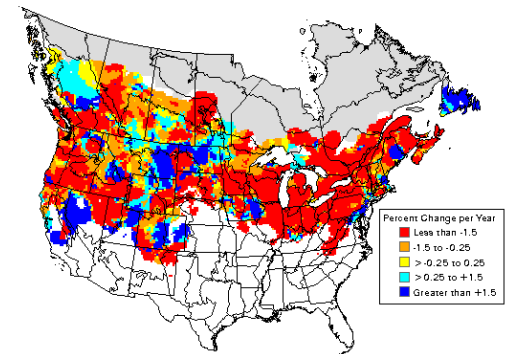
Vesper Sparrow



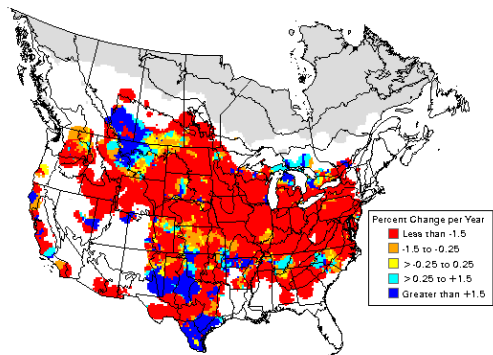
Eastern Meadowlark



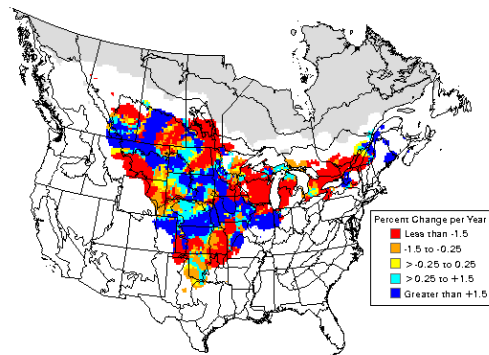
Bobolink



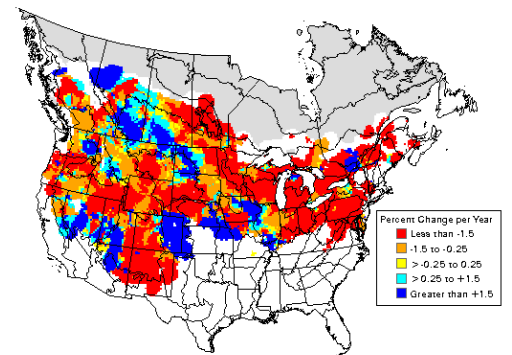
Savannah Sparrow



Grasshopper Sparrow



Upland Sandpiper



Vesper Sparrow

# Massachusetts Grassland Bird Conservation

## Action Items

- Monitor – Identify Species of Greatest Conservation Concern
- Prioritize Areas of Particular Conservation Value
- Support Conservation of Grassland Habitat on Town Properties
- Model Good Grassland Management to Land Trusts and Conservation Groups
- Address Airport Safety and Bird Habitat Issues
  
- Promote Bird-friendly Farming on Private Lands

# The Problem: Interaction of Economics & Biology



Many farmers begin harvesting their hayfields in mid-late May and will continue to harvest several times throughout the summer

**HARVESTING ACTIVITIES DURING THIS 9 WEEK PERIOD WILL CAUSE NESTING FAILURES AND POTENTIALLY KILL BREEDING ADULTS**

**How to get farmers to delay their harvests until late-July or early August so that grassland-nesting birds are not harmed?**

# The Problem: Interaction of Economics & Biology

Solicit \$\$ donations from conservationists interested in protecting nesting Bobolinks.

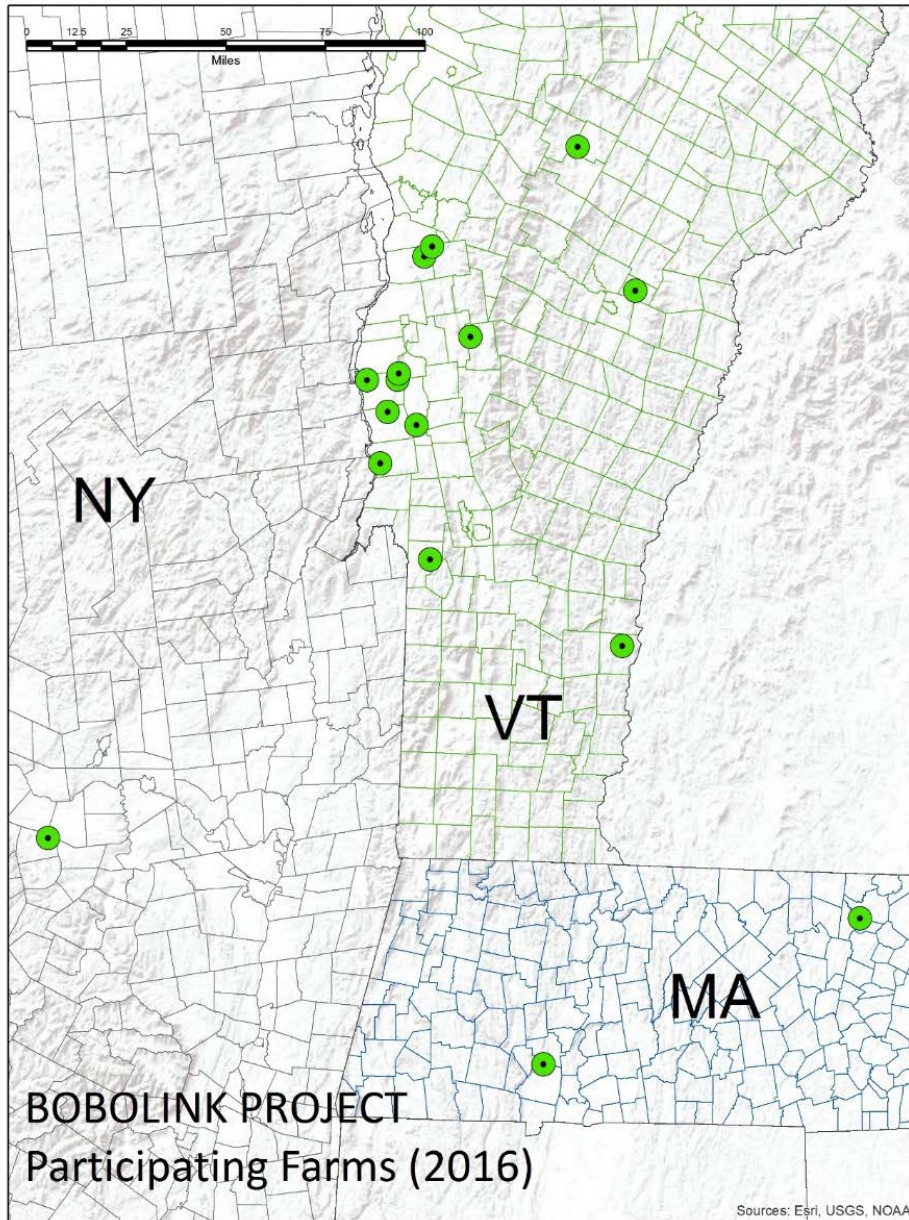
Contract with farmers who are willing to delay their hay-cutting until after Bobolink nesting has been completed. \$\$ raised from donations goes to farmers, making it possible for them to harvest late-season, lower quality hay that is not as valuable as early season hay.

[www.bobolinkproject.org](http://www.bobolinkproject.org)



The screenshot shows the website for The Bobolink Project. At the top left is a circular logo with a bird and the text 'THE BOBOLINK PROJECT'. To its right is the text 'The Bobolink Project' and 'Helping Farmers Protect Grassland Birds'. Below this is a navigation menu with links: Home, Who We Are, Project History, Why Bobolinks?, Benefits, Resources, Testimonials, and FAQs. The main content area has a heading 'WELCOME TO THE BOBOLINK PROJECT' followed by a paragraph describing the project as a non-profit research program based at the University of Connecticut and the University of Vermont. To the right of this text is a sidebar with several links: 'Field economics and the boblink's survival', 'See UVM's ecologist Allan Strong describe the project.', 'Experiment tests whether bobolink payment plan will fly', 'Positively Vermont: Bobolink Project', 'The tenacious bobolink wins financial backers', and 'The Bobolink Project - A Post from Duncraft's Wild Bird Blog'. Below the sidebar is a 'CONTACT INFO' section for Stephen Swallow, Professor at the University of Connecticut, with his address, phone number, and email. At the bottom of the contact section is the text 'If you have questions regarding the'.

# The Problem: Interaction of Economics & Biology



The screenshot shows the website for 'The Bobolink Project', which aims to help farmers protect grassland birds. The website features a navigation menu with links for Home, Who We Are, Project History, Why Bobolinks?, Benefits, Resources, Testimonials, For Farmers, and For Donors. A 'WELCOME TO THE BOBOLINK PROJECT' section provides an overview of the project, stating it is a non-profit program developed by researchers at the University of Connecticut and the University of Vermont, now collaboratively administered by Mass Audubon, Audubon Vermont, and Audubon Connecticut. A sidebar on the right contains several links for more information, including 'Learn More', 'Field economics and the boblink's survival', 'See UVM's ecologist Allan Strong describe the project', 'Experiment tests whether bobolink payment plan will fly', 'Positively Vermont: Bobolink Project', 'The tenacious bobolink wins financial backers', and 'The Bobolink Project - A Post from Duncraft's Wild Bird Blog'. The footer includes contact information for Dr. Jon Atwood at Mass Audubon, located at 208 South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773, with a phone number of 800-AUDUBON (800-283-8266). Logos for Mass Audubon and Audubon Connecticut are also present.

- In 2015 about \$44,000 was raised from conservation-minded donors.
- About 500 acres of hayfields (13 farms in VT, 2 in MA, 1 in NY) were “rented” from farmers until the end of the breeding season.
- About 500 Bobolinks were fledged that otherwise would have been killed by haying