

# Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)



**Bobolink male and female photo by Ruhikanta Meetei**

**Description:** Spring/summer male unmistakable, black below with much white on back, yellow on nape. In late summer he molts to a more camouflaged pattern like female and young's: buffy, streaky, with black stripes on crown.

**Trends:** Declining- Conservation Tipping Point Orange Alert

**Habitat:** In grassy or overgrown fields and pastures, listen for a long, burbling song punctuated with sharp metallic notes. Bobolinks are related to blackbirds, which are often polygynous, meaning that males may have several mates per breeding season. Bobolinks are polygynous, too—but they're also often polyandrous: each clutch of eggs laid by a single female may have multiple fathers.

**Ways You can help with Conservation:** The Bobolink is one of the world's most impressive songbird migrants, traveling some 12,500 miles (20,000 kilometers) to and from southern South America every year. Throughout its lifetime, it may travel the equivalent of 4 or 5 times around the circumference of the earth. While they typically do not breed in our area, they do pass through on migration and can be seen in open fields feeding on seeds. All grassland species are in sharp decline due to the loss of habitat.

*NHBA encourages people with fields to not mow until after the breeding season (late August) to help all grassland species who use fields to feed, nest, and raise their young.*



**Bobolink female photo by Amelia Hall**



**Bobolink male by Caroline Samson**