



# WHERE ARE THE GRASSLAND BIRDS?



♂

## Bobolink

(*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)



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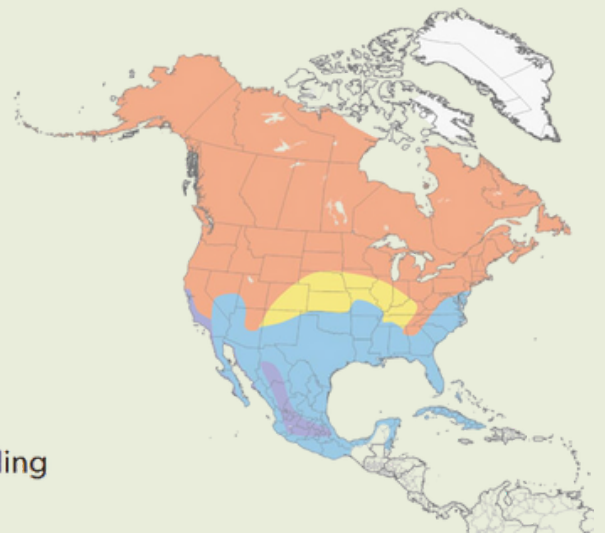
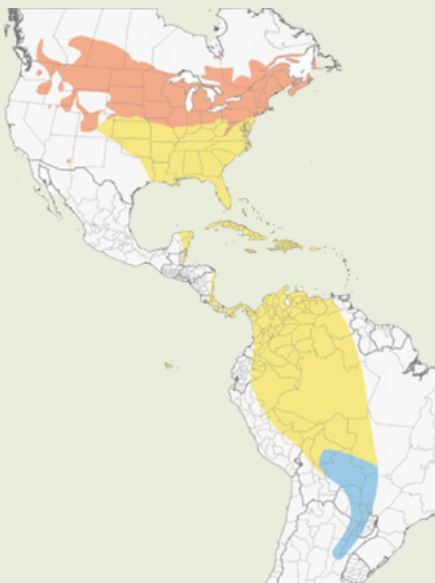
Long-distance Migrants



## Savannah Sparrow

(*Passerculus sandwichensis*)

Medium -distance Migrants



## Adopt bird-friendly haying practices



Bobolinks and other grassland birds require several undisturbed weeks to nest and raise their young. However, this critical period often overlaps with the time when landowners, particularly dairy producers, need to mow their fields in June to harvest hay at its peak protein content.

To address this conflict, conservation plans have been developed that provide economic assistance to farmers. This support enables them to delay their mowing schedules, allowing grassland-nesting birds to complete their breeding cycles without disruption.

## But we still don't know...

What influence grassland birds' ...

- Habitat choice?
- Breeding success?
- Migration timing? Migration route? Migratory performance?

How they use the farm?



## My Work at the Hudson Valley Farm Hub

Early May ----- Observe arrived Individuals  
Looking for returned adults

May - July ----- Catch birds with mist-net  
Band each bird with a unique color combination  
Give them a "backpack" to track their locations  
Retrieve old tracking device if it's an old bird  
Search for nests, check nests every 2 days  
Observe parents feeding young  
Band the babies near fledging

August ----- Summarize breeding success  
Observe pre-migration molting and flocking behaviors

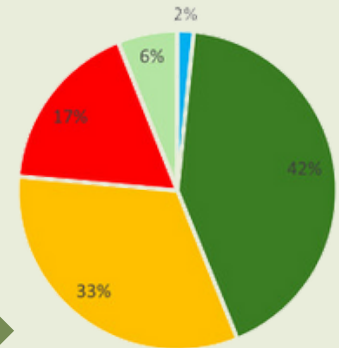
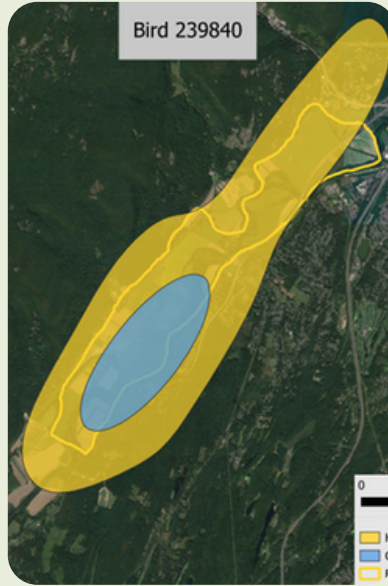
September ----- Track Bobolink's migration to South America!





## Satellite tracking

Weighing just 2 grams, these tags communicate with satellites to provide highly accurate location data on the birds. This technology allows us to analyze their land use during the breeding season, determine home range sizes, and understand their habitat selection.



## Light-level Geolocator Tracking



These tags record sunrise and sunset times, using light data to calculate the birds' longitude and latitude. These durable, long-lasting tags enable us to analyze their migration paths, tracking their journey to South America in the fall and their return in the spring.

