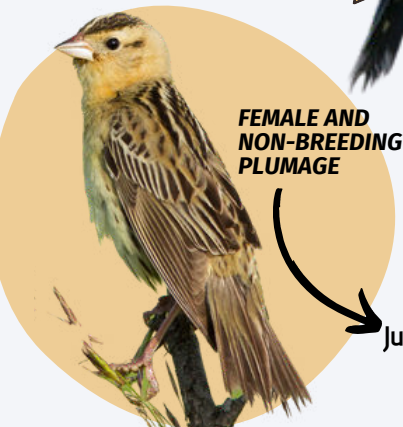
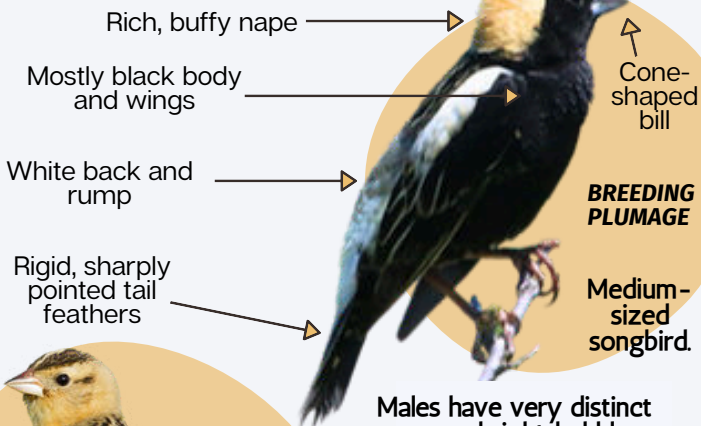


BOBOLINK

Dolichonyx oryzivorus

SPECIES-AT-RISK

IDENTIFICATION TIPS:



Weight: 29-56g
Length: 15-21cm
Wingspan: 27cm

HABITAT

The bobolink is a bird that breeds in grasslands in North America and winters in South America. In Atlantic Canada, it predominantly breeds in hayfields and pastures, typically those made up of timothy, clover, tall grasses, and broad-leaved plants.

NESTING

Birds arrive back to PEI in mid-May. Males choose a territory within which females build a grass nest on the ground. Eggs are laid in mid-June and hatch 11-14 days later.





BOBOLINK

Dolichonyx oryzivorus

YOUNG



Newly hatched young are helpless, with closed eyes, and sparse yellowish down. They remain in the nest, cared for and fed by both parents for 10-11 days. They leave the nest still unable to fly and partially dependent on their parents. The chicks hide in thick vegetation for a few more days until their flight feathers have fully emerged.

One way you can tell that a bobolink has young is observing adults carrying food.



THREATS IN ATLANTIC CANADA

- Habitat loss caused by the conversion of forage crops to grain or row crops.
- Early hay-mowing that destroys nests and kills young.
- Reduction of food supply due in part to the use of pesticides and the destruction of insect-producing habitats, such as wetlands.

How you can help

If you have bobolink habitat on your property contact INT to learn more about the Farmland Birds Program. We can discuss options such as:

- ▶ Delaying your hay harvest until **after** July 15th.
- ▶ Reporting sightings and biologically significant dates to INT. Ask about our fridge forms!
- ▶ Spread the word. Tell others about our bobolink neighbours and how they can help!



Delayed haying on long-term hay fields may be eligible for funding through the Alternative Land Use Services (**ALUS**) program.