

Grassland Bird in Ontario

Balancing Conservation and Agriculture

Grassland birds are birds that nest exclusively in grassland. They are an important part of Ontario's biodiversity. These migratory species nest in Canada and the USA, and winter in the south. The majority of grassland bird nesting habitat in Ontario occurs in grass-dominated hayfields and pastures on farms.

84%



Eastern Meadowlark

79%



Grasshopper Sparrow

80%



Bobolink (M)



Bobolink (F)

Over the past 50 years, grassland bird populations have declined markedly. **Ontario contributes to an overall 53% decrease in grassland birds in North America.** All three species above are listed as at risk. Because grassland birds build their nests directly on the ground, nests are vulnerable to trampling by livestock, destruction by farm machinery, and exposure to predators after heavy grazing and hay harvesting.

Actions on Farms

Be Part of Conservation!



Delay grazing until **mid-July** or later



In Hayfields
Delay haying until **mid-July** or later

Alternatives:

- Perimeters first
- Fields with high abundance last
- Large fields last

In Pastures
Alternatives:

- Fields with high abundance last
- Central paddocks last
- Light grazing during peak nesting

