

# SPECIAL SESSION AGENDA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7 ♦ 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

## BOBOLINK CONSERVATION PLAN WORKING MEETING

MEETING ROOM: MARINER A

**Overview:** In response to mounting conservation challenges faced by grassland birds, USFWS has designated Bobolink as a Migratory Birds Program focal species and supported the development of a comprehensive, full life cycle Bobolink Conservation Plan. The ultimate goal is to prioritize and advance strategies to sustain Bobolink populations and address needs of other, co-occurring grassland bird species, the habitats they depend on, and related environmental services. The proximate goal of the Plan is to develop a comprehensive, regionally-based guide for full life cycle conservation of Bobolinks across their range based on input from North and South American partners. This session provides an important opportunity for Northeast biologists and conservationists to provide their input relevant to the region. The session will facilitate discussions in order to incorporate population goals and conservation objectives and actions specific to the Northeast into the Plan.

### Working Meeting Objectives:

- Explain the Bobolink Conservation Plan and discuss progress to date
- Discuss Northeast region responsibilities for achieving the rangewide objective
- Discuss breeding season threats to Bobolink in the Northeast and strategies to address those threats
- Develop projects necessary to implement priority strategies

AGENDA	
8:00 AM	<b>Welcome, Introductions &amp; Goals</b> - Randy Dettmers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service/ Migratory Bird Program, Northeast Region
8:15 AM	<b>Bobolink Full Life Cycle Conservation Plan</b> - Tom Will, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Why do we need a conservation plan for Bobolink? Progress to date and how this meeting fits into overall process
8:30 AM	<b>Population Objectives</b> -Tom Will Range-wide Bobolink population goal and approach to generating population objectives: are we on the right track?
8:50 AM	<b>Threats, Conservation Objectives, and Strategies Developed So Far</b> - Tom Will What threats are the highest priorities for the Northeast BCRs? What strategies do we need to employ in the Northeast, and what are the priorities? What information gaps need to be addressed in order to effectively implement these strategies? What other groups/ stakeholders need to be engaged as partners, and when?
9:25 AM	<b>Preparation for Group Discussion</b>
9:30 AM	<b>Break</b>
10:00 AM	<b>Developing Projects to Address Strategies</b> - Randy Dettmers What projects can we carry out to address strategies for the top threat(s)?
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	<b>Review Projects &amp; Next Steps</b> - Randy Dettmers