

Three Weeks Left - Please Reply by April 30th



EARLY JAMESTOWN SETTLERS NEED YOUR HELP

For hundreds of years, Bobolinks have raised their young in Jamestown. Each spring, these small songbirds leave their wintering grounds in South America and fly 5,000 miles to nest in our island's hayfields.

But Bobolinks are getting harder to find. Once considered Rhode Island's most common bird, the Bobolink population has plummeted 40 percent nationally in the past few decades.

Jamestown recently purchased farm development rights – an important step for preserving Conanicut Island's heritage. But for Bobolinks, it's only a first step to protection.

Bobolinks need successful farms that choose to grow hay. But on modern, efficient farms, the hay harvest now coincides with the nesting season. That means nests often are destroyed before Bobolink chicks can hatch and fly away.

We want to change that – with your help. We're offering Jamestown residents the chance to pay into a fund that in turn will pay farmers to provide Bobolink habitat this year. Participating farmers will postpone their hay harvest and limit cattle grazing during the 2008 nesting season.

You will have the opportunity to join with a group of other residents in the community to protect a 10-acre field, which can support 10 to 30 Bobolink fledglings. These fields will be protected only if enough residents participate.

To ensure that we collect just the money we need, we will ask you to send in a contribution – but will keep it only if necessary. Otherwise, your money will be returned.

Watch for the green envelope with the Bobolink icon for a payment card and details on how to participate. For more information, contact Stephen Swallow at swallow@uri.edu or 401.874.4589.



Nature Services Exchange of Jamestown
www.JamestownBobolinkProject.com

The Nature Services Exchange is a partnership of the University of Rhode Island and EcoAsset Markets Inc. Our partnership is dedicated to finding market-based solutions to wildlife conservation.