CVC is converting almost 25 acres of an old farm field at Upper Credit Conservation Area into thriving grassland full of wildflowers and native grasses. Increasing the amount of land certified by CVC's Bird-Friendly Certified Hay (BFCH) program is another way to provide habitat for these birds. Harvesting hay later in the year, a central part of the BFCH program, means birds can finish nesting before hay is harvested.

The BFCH program has increased potential grassland habitat by 225 acres to date. CVC staff visited the fields earlier this year in the months of June and July and detected 105 eastern meadowlark and bobolink. Forty-six of these occurrences were

identified to be breeding pairs.

"The transformation at Upper Credit Conservation Area is in its final stages as the field was seeded in spring with native plants. We hope that the field will become a dem-

'Old fields are often neglected and landowners may not be aware that they could look better and provide critical habitat for grassland birds.'

- Mike Puddister, CVC Deputy Director -

onstration site for landowners who want to improve old fields on their properties," said Mike Puddister, Deputy CAO and Director of Watershed Transformation at CVC.

"Old fields are often neglected and landowners may not be aware that they could look better and provide critical habitat for grassland birds. We partner with landowners and provide them with tools and resources to enhance the land on their properties," he said. Landowners interested in learning more about the project and the recovery program can view an online journal showcasing the project at www.creditvalleyca.ca/grasslandrecovery.

The Grassland Bird Recovery Program received financial assistance from the Ministry of Natural Resources Species at Risk Stewardship Fund.

Visit its website, www.creditvalleyca.ca/events for information on upcoming workshops that can assist you with the natural features on your property.

Conservation authorities are a provincial/municipal partnership. Credit Valley Conservation gratefully acknowledges financial support from its member municipalities for facilities, programs and services: the Regions of Peel and Halton; the Cities of Mississauga and Brampton; the Towns of Caledon, Erin, Halton Hills, Mono, Oakville and Orangeville; and the Townships of Amaranth and East Garafraxa. CVC is a member of Conservation Ontario.



A Robin-sized song bird which nests in open grasslands and hayfields. During summer breeding season, males are black with a white back and a yellow patch on the back of his head. By late summer, males loose their breeding colours to match the tan with black stripes of the female appearing more as a large sparrow. It is provincially and nationally threatened.

Text courtesy of CVC Photo courtesy of Ministry of Natural Resources

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