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Hi Sheila,

I came out to the East Leverett Meadow on Saturday morning at about 6:00 a.m. to do the bobolink survey. It went very well and I have terrific news for you. The young have fledged!

As I walked my transects I was concerned because I was not noticing the same levels of territoriality that I observed in previous years. I was beginning to attribute that to the later sampling date (June 29 as opposed to June 20). Then on one plot I noticed something flopping around almost at my feet. I bent over and moved around the grass a little and sure enough, it was a young bobolink. In fact it flew up in my face and then landed a little distance away. Additional sampling plots revealed the fact that there were literally dozens more fledglings flying around, primarily in a swath of the meadow between the hickory tree in the middle of the field and the bluebird boxes generally near the bridge over Roaring Brook. Keep your eye out over the course of the next week. I bet all the bobolink will be gone by the weekend.

I will draft up a more formal report for you and the land trust. It is my pleasure to help out!

Sincerely,

Aaron Eilers