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I have lived in the neighborhood of the Upper Meadows grassland for more than 20 years and have witnessed its return from toxin-sprayed corn crops to hay fields. That change has both diminished toxic effluents washing into the Connecticut River and allowed the return of grassland bird species to the area. These species, including particularly meadowlarks, are beginning to reestablish breeding populations now and on both sides of the river in the hay/grassland areas. Great River Hydro and the farmers who together control hay cutting on these fields "on BOTH sides of the Connecticut River" must be encouraged to delay taking first cuttings until after the young birds have fledged and can take flight to avoid being killed. This is a matter of only a few weeks delay and is the only way these birds can be protected and their breeding populations supported and encouraged. It's time we all take action and join the volunteers who have worked so long and hard in the effort to protect these endangered species.

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