

Donna Jones, BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

My name is Donna Jones and I have been a resident of 16 Upper Meadows Road for 30 years. The meadow was used for corn and hay up until a few years ago.

Since the mowing has ceased, I have personally witnessed a tremendous recovery of birds and wildlife dependent on the open tall grass fields of the Upper Meadow. In particular the impact has been on the Bobolinks and the Eastern Meadowlarks (deemed Rare by Cornell Lab of Ornithology) who require nesting in tall grass and breeding in open fields. If the fields are mowed in the late Spring it disrupts and destroys the birds nests and eggs. They learn to not return to what could be a safe place to breed. The undisturbed habitat of the Upper Meadow has provided an incredible bird population that visits our neighborhood (Finches, Chickadees, Grosbeaks, Cardinals, Blue Jays, Baltimore Orioles, Eastern Bluebird and Wood Thrush). In addition, there is a tremendous amount of wildlife now living in the Upper Meadow including turkey, geese, eagles, turtles, beaver, and mink just to name a few.

Please continue the positive wildlife outcome by not mowing the Upper Meadow located on Upper Meadows Road, Bellows Falls, VT.

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