

November, 2013

To the Editor:

Regarding Bobolinks on Hubbardston public conservation property:

When the judge, jury, and executioner refuse to even hear the evidence then you know that their argument is over and lost. Such is the case of the Hubbardston Open Space Committee (OSC). The OSC recently refused to approve and support a no-cost scientific survey conducted at the Mt. Jefferson Conservation Area in order to quantify the Bobolink numbers and breeding success or otherwise. MassAudubon's highly-regarded Ecological Extension Service made the offer and was turned down flat. The OSC has in past years also refused offers of free ecological surveys of the Mt. Jefferson and Malone Road properties – heaven forbid, a rare species or other important natural feature could be found . . . !

When the science of data collection is refused then we're into the arena of political dogma, bias, and prejudice. There could be an uncomfortable fact revealed that disturbs the imposition of one person's misguided and non-analytical views on the rest of the town. Be warned – it won't be long until the executioner will again be in the Mount Jefferson killing fields mowing down baby birds in the nest.

The Eastern Meadowlarks that used to nest on the Mt Jefferson property have been wiped out. Will the Bobolinks be next?

It is time for open, not closed, minds on the part of OSC members. It is time to allow a more rational, scientific, and unemotional approach to the management of the Mt. Jefferson property that starts with collecting the data and facts.

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