

## Birdwatching at Johnnycake Mountain Park

### THE BOBOLINKS ARE BACK!

Try out the Merlin Bird APP from Cornell University

Take a slow, quiet walk around the hay fields on the trails and look/listen for the bobolinks!



Allaboutbirds.org Male



Ebird.org Female

They are only here for a short time then they get ready to fly 12,000 miles to Argentina's Pampas (Grasslands) for the winter. The bobolinks hide and nest in the grass and they blend in so well with the yellow flowers in the fields. Watch the hay undulate in the wind.

Watch this video and listen to their song: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bobolink/sounds> You'll go through different parts of the park and not hear anything and then all of sudden you'll hear them before you see them. Enjoy the magic of Johnnycake Mtn. Park.

The **Merlin Bird App** will listen to the bird songs, identify the bird and show you a picture. As the app hears the same bird call again, it will highlight the bird's name in yellow. It's very cool. Download the app at home and try it in your backyard before you go to the park.

**Johnnycake Mountain Farm Directions and Parking:**

**130 Johnnycake Mountain Rd., Burlington, CT 06013**

From the intersection of Rtes. 4 and 69, head south towards Bristol on Route 69. Take the right immediately after Dunkin Donuts. This is Rock Rd. Travel on Rock Rd. for 1.6 miles. At the end of Rock Rd., take a left at the stop sign onto Johnnycake Mountain Rd. Travel .10 miles and turn left to go down the driveway between the fences. (The barns that are shown on Google Maps have been removed.) If you are coming up Route 69 North towards the center of Burlington, you will take the left (Rock Rd.) that is before Dunkin Donuts and follow the rest of the directions above.

GPS Coordinates for the starting point: 41.759862, -72.999078

Suggestions:

Park your car at the end of the driveway, walk straight through the gate and down the hill towards the open fields. You'll see the start of a mown path through the hay fields. Stay on the trail, walk slowly and listen. Watch for the male bobolink as he hovers above the grass. You may see a few males chasing a female around, see them dive into the grass and disappear. The male's head looks like one of the buttercups in the field. Have fun. It's a good idea to leave your dog at home so it doesn't disturb the birds you are watching.

Some reference sources for you:

<https://www.ctaudubon.org/2019/06/bobolink/>

Map is in this Johnnycake Park Bobolink map.