

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD REPORT

☒ RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD ☐ NEW STATE RECORD

CFO-ORC FILE #54-7

Accepted JR 8/24/75

Species: Eastern Meadowlark (Vernacular Name) Sturnella magna (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): 10 May 1975 Time Bird Seen: ~ 0930 to 1000 (plus heard for another 45 min)

Locality: State Wildlife area S. of near Jumbo Res.

Nearest Town: Crook (?) County: Sedgwick (?)

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>Robert Andrews</u>		
<u>Steve Larson</u>		
<u>Bill Lybarger</u>		

Optical Equipment: 15-60 scope; 10x50 binocs

Light Conditions: fairly good - bright overcast

Distance from Bird (how measured): 75' (guess)

Number of Birds Seen: 7 + 3 heard Sex: — Plumage: adult

Overall Appearance and Size: same as Western Meadowlark

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): same as Western

Legs (shape and color): not observed

Crown and Forehead: same as Western Eye (color): dark

Nape: same as Western Face: same as Western but cheeks clean white - no streaks as in Western Throat: yellow

Breast and Sides: same as Western

Belly and Flanks: "

Undertail Coverts: not observed

Back: same as Western

Wings: "

Underwings: not observed

Rump: " Uppertail Coverts: not observed

Upper Side of Tail: same as Western but center of tail feathers solid dark (see reverse side of this sheet)

Under Side of Tail: not observed

Shape of Tail: same as Western

Voice: (1) clear high whistled "see seedle see" first note highest (2) call note in flight, a buzzy "Boyt-titititititititit" - a trill introduced by an inflected note. These birds were under observation for over an hour and never heard to give any other vocalization.

Behavior: typical meadowlark

Habitat: wet, ~~long grass~~ long-grass field at the edge of a marsh with a ditch flowing through it

Prior Experience with this Species: Very familiar with songs from "back East", but not heard since 1967.

Extremely familiar with Western Meadowlark songs.

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? (1) song obviously not a Western and clearly East

these birds sang no other song for over an hour - they were singing their own song and not any learned song (Westerns have been known to learn Eastern song) (2) call note different from Western - although the Western has a trill somewhat similar, it is not introduced by the inflected note and is drier and lower-pitched. (3) tail pattern (see reverse) (4) cleaner white face.

I never saw the two side by side and so couldn't say anything about darkness of back. Extent of yellow on sides of throat is rumored to be unreliable.

This Report was Written From: Notes made during after ☒ observation; Memory —

Signed: Van Rensen Street Address: Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Univ. of California

Date Prepared: 5-12-75 Town and State: Berkeley CA ZIP 947

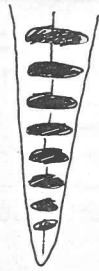
Return to: JACK REDDATT 1150 South Alton Street Englewood Colorado 80120

tail pattern

single tail
feather



Eastern



Western

(lacks longitudinal
continuous dark area)

We could see this clearly through the telescope ~~and~~ on the Easterns and about an hour later looked very closely at Westerns and could see the disconnected bars very well. (as well as the more streaked, darker cheeks) through the scope.