

54-88-42
A

DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG PAPER BIRD SIGHTING
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: Eastern Meadowlark
(Vernacular name)

Sturnella magna
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): 12 June 1988 to at least 6 July 1988 Time Bird Seen: mostly AM to

Locality: Hudson BBS route, east of Platteville, Weld Co, CO

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 9x30 Nikon binoculars, Questar telescope

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: No photos but recorded by GHR

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♂ Plumage:

Light conditions: Excellent

Distance from bird, and how measured: seen as close as 75m

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Singing frequently from some dead willows + 1 live one, flying back & forth between song perches into grassland.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: Grassy swale within sagebrush grassland. The swale contained 1 live pencilleaf willow + several dead ones.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Gary H. Rosenberg, 5441 N. Swan Rd #313, Tucson AZ 85718

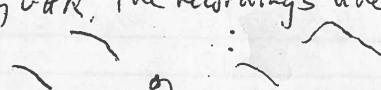
Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

I found the bird while conducting the Hudson BBS route. It was singing constantly, on 6 July 64 & I viewed the bird through a Questar

Plumage: Typical meadowlark plumage; bright yellow throat contrasting sharply with gray behind the lower mandible; dark bars on the central rectrices were definitely connected by dark along the feather shafts; white in outer tail feathers more extensive than in Western Meadowlark, but not as extensive as in the typical southwestern Eastern Meadowlark.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

Song - clear whistles, typical E. meadowlark song. Gave 2 variants of the song, both of which were recorded by GHR. The recordings are excellent.

General song pattern: 

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Western meadowlark eliminated by song, face pattern, pattern on the central rectrices, and greater amount of white in the tail (on this bird)

Prior experience with this and similar species: Much experience with both species, including where they are sympatric in eastern New Mexico.

This report was written from notes made during after observation; from memory .

NAME (print): William H Howe

Mailing address: 1120 W. Magnolia, Ft. Collins, CO 80521

Signature: Bill Howe

Return Form To: CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator - Dept. of Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205