

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2019-12-01 14:32:48
Observer's Name	Rob Dickerson
E-mail	radickerson@gmail.com
Phone	717-994-9823
Observer's Address	92 Carriage House Lane Reedsville PA 17084 United States
Names of additional observers	Jay Zook, Andy Keister, Jon Kauffman, Eric Zawatski, Carl Engstrom and many others
Species (Common Name)	Western Meadowlark
Species (Scientific Name)	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult in breeding plumage
Observation Date and Time	06-27-2019 2:30 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/checklist/S57737969
County	Mifflin
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Union Township, Pennsylvania (outside of Belleville, PA)
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Beech Tree Lane
GPS coordinates of sighting	N 40.6139551 W -77.7402477
Habitat	Pasture and hay fields
Distance to bird	200 feet
Viewing conditions	Clear day
Optical equipment used	Pentax K3 camera with 540mm lens and Zeiss Conquest HD 8x42 binoculars

Description

Robin-sized meadowlark with a yellow throat and a bright yellow breast. A dark black "V" was observed on the breast. Brown eyeline behind the eye. White supercilium. Yellow lores. Brown crown stripe with a white median crown stripe.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

The bird was singing from two fence posts approximately 200 feet away almost the entire time I was at the location. The bird was singing every 15-20 seconds for half an hour. Between songs, the bird would look around the area that it was perched.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

This bird was separated from Eastern Meadowlark by its song. I'm very familiar with the Eastern Meadowlark and its song, and this bird's song was of a more "bubbly nature".

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

I have included an image and an audio file of the song.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Song matched the Western Meadowlark song on Cornell University's All About Birds website.

During

Sibley Birds iPhone app

After

All About Birds Western Meadowlark pages

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph
Audio

Upload images, audio, video or drawings

[166014121.jpg](#)

[175765471.wav](#)

Click to edit

PORC-webform00120

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2020-02-04 23:46:40
Observer's Name	Michael David
E-mail	michaeldavid@gmail.com
Observer's Address	United States
Names of additional observers	Jason Horn
Species (Common Name)	Western Meadowlark
Species (Scientific Name)	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult breeding plumage, presumed male
Observation Date and Time	06-25-2019 7:50 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/checklist/S57678441
County	Mifflin
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Belleville
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Beech Tree Ln
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.612761, -77.737904
Habitat	Open grassy farm fields
Description	Robin-sized passerine with long pointed bill, fairly long legs, and short tail. Sandy brown above with thin darker barring; yellow below from throat to belly fading to whitish on lower belly and flanks, with large black patch in a rough inverted triangle shape on upper chest. A few dark streaks on upper flanks. Face pale with dark crown and line behind eye split by prominent pale supercilium.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Singing from various perches on fences, wires, low shrubs, and once at the top of a tree. Sometimes flew fairly high between spots on either side of the farm lane.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Separation from Eastern Meadowlark primarily by song. Song began with clear whistles, each note remaining level in pitch, and ended with rapid "bubbly" sounding phrase. Eastern songs consist of whistles that slur downwards and don't contain the "bubbly" phrases.

Details that differentiate plumage were difficult to study closely at the range the bird was typically perched, and no Easterns were present when I was there to compare with, but supporting visual characteristics included thin dark bars on wings and tail contributing to overall pale, "washed-out" appearance, low contrast between face and throat with yellowish extending onto malar, and thinner white edges to tail seen in flight.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

I think this bird has been submitted already, I'm adding this mostly to provide additional audio recordings if needed for the record.

During

Sibley guide

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph
Audio

Upload images, audio, video or drawings

[2019_06_25_WEME_Mifflin_PA_2.wav](#)
[2019_06_25_WEME_Mifflin_PA.wav](#)



[Western Meadowlark, Mifflin, PA 1.JPG](#)



[Western Meadowlark, Mifflin, PA 2.JPG](#)



[Western Meadowlark, Mifflin, PA 3.JPG](#)