

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for. Attach additional pages or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One individual in what appeared to be typical nonbreeding plumage.
3. Parish: Jefferson Davis Parish
Specific Locality: Arceneaux Road off of La 99 toward the end on the North side.
4. Date(s) when observed: 12/18/2020
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 1:12 pm
6. Reporting observer and city/state address

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|---------------------------------|
| Reporting observer: David Booth |
| City: Lake Charles |
| State: Louisiana |
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Dale Hamilton
Was the original finder of the bird.
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): None in the field.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Excellent light from over our shoulders.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10x40 Zeiss Binocs and Nikon P-900 camera.
11. Distance to bird(s): 30-40 yards
12. Duration of observation: 3-5 minutes. When we were getting the scope out, a truck

passed and the bird flew.

13. Habitat: active crawfish farms. It was sitting on a small earthen levee between two ponds.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): The bird was resting and giving us the eye.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species; body bulk, shape, proportions; bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*): In the field, I saw a lighter washed out bird which prompted me to shoot several shots before it flew. Once photos were reviewed I saw the lack of a strong white malar stripe and yellow from the throat which wrapped up into the malar area. Paul Conover also pointed out the barring on the back.

16. Voice: No vocalization.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): EAME would have a stronger white malar stripe.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Photos by DR Booth. Can be seen at ebird report.

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S77648140>

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen in the west a number of times. Seen once in Louisiana and photographed. Shots are very close to that record.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

a. at time of observation: None.

b. after observation: Various aps including Sibley's and Merlin.

21. This description is written from:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | notes made during the observation. | Are notes attached? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | notes made after the observation. | At what date? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | memory | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | study of images | | |

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: Yes, photos were submitted and identified by several others including Dr. Remsen and Paul Conover.

23. Date: 12/21/2020

Time: 11:34 am

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?

_____ YES _____

If yes, may we include your name with the report? _____ YES _____