

Shaver's Mountain in Randolph County (Handlan, 1949. *The Redstart*, 16:51). The Brown Creeper is a moderately common summer resident in the northern mixed forests and spruce forest at high elevations in West Virginia, but it has not previously been found below about 2,500 feet in the summer. This same situation apparently obtains in the neighboring states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia.

While the nesting of this species at this extremely low elevation in more or less atypical habitat is very probably purely fortuitous, it might be well to point out that another possibility does exist. The creeper is a common winter resident in these latitudes and regularly, but uncommonly, a few are reported in the latter part of May and are usually thought to be delayed migrants. However, since Brown Creeper nests are not conspicuous, and since many bird students are totally unfamiliar with the territorial song of the species, it is possible that the species nests under these circumstances more often than is realized.—GEORGE A. HALL, *West Virginia University, Morgantown, W.Va.*, AND NEVADA LAITSCH, *M.C. 21, East Liverpool, Ohio*, 3 June 1963.

Western Meadowlark in West Virginia.—On 21 May 1961, while on a field trip of the Brooks Bird Club in Jefferson County, West Virginia, I heard what appeared to be the song of a Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*). We quickly located the bird singing from a perch on a short power line. It sang for some time using only the typical *neglecta* song. It was quite evident that the back of this bird was much paler than in the case of the Eastern Meadowlark (*S. magna*), which was also present in this field, but none of the other distinguishing marks could be made out. We studied the bird for about half an hour; five of us were familiar with this species in the West.

Upon being alarmed, the bird left its perch and flew low over the field giving the "chupp" call mentioned by Lanyon (1957. "The Comparative Biology of the Meadowlarks (*Sturnella*) in Wisconsin") as being distinctive of this species. It showed great attachment for the particular section of wire on which it was first discovered and repeatedly returned to it when flushed. When observers approached too closely to it while on the ground, it would fly close to the perching locality, calling frequently, and then hesitate and fly off. It did not closely associate with the two or three individuals of *magna* present.

This observation was made in a small open field not far from Harper's Ferry and only a few hundred yards from the crest of the mountain which forms the Virginia border. Most of this mountainside is covered with dense brush or moderately heavy forest and this small field represents a virtual island of meadowlark habitat.

The bird was seen again in the afternoon, but not thereafter. Mr. Clark Miller of Inwood, West Virginia, informed me that the field was mowed during the next week and that he failed to find the bird there again.

There are no published records for this species in West Virginia, and, as far as I am aware, this is the first fully authenticated sight record for the species in the state. On two earlier occasions observers who were familiar with this species believed that they heard the bird in the state but did not follow up their observations. Mrs. Maurice Brooks of Morgantown, West Virginia, reported hearing one in Marshall County some four or five years ago; and Mr. Joseph Grom of Gibsonia, Pennsylvania, reported hearing one in Tucker County in 1960. Mrs. Nevada Laitsch of East Liverpool, Ohio, has written me that on 19 June 1961, on the Guyan River in Lincoln County (220 air miles to the southwest), she heard a Western Meadowlark. This bird was also in a small field which was an ecological island in a densely wooded area.—GEORGE A. HALL, *West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia*, 3 June 1963.