

songs can be determined very readily. Of the three the olive-backed has the best voice—the richest and most flute-like—but his song is inferior. It is shorter and lacks variety, and is of more limited compass than that of either of his congeners, and while lacking the spirit of the veery's, is less hymn-like than the hermit's.

Besides their songs most birds have distinctive call notes and cries of alarm, which vary so much that an expert can distinguish the species to which a bird belongs by any note it may utter. The alarm note of the olive-backed thrush, which is heard most frequently when the nest is in danger, sounds something like *quit*, spoken abruptly though in liquid tone. The bird also utters at times a feeble *cheep* and a metallic *chick*.

The colors of this thrush are olive-tinted russet on the upper parts, silver-white on the belly, and a creamy tint, spotted with olive on the breast. In the autumn the olive-tint of the upper parts is less distinct and the under parts are tinged with buff.

These birds are not common in Ontario and Quebec, appearing only in small companies, and occurring in Ontario during the migrations only. In the Maritime Provinces they are fairly common as summer residents. The area of their distribution extends from Great Slave Lake to the tropics.

MEADOW LARK.

The simple though sweet and plaintive lay of this songster is familiar to the dwellers in the southern peninsula of Ontario, but nowhere else in Canada is the bird plentiful excepting in the vicinity of Montreal. In the Maritime Provinces the meadow lark is a stranger.

The song is one of the simplest of bird efforts and thus appears in strong contrast with the song of a near relative that is found on the Manitoba plains—a bird that is credited with one of the grandest and most inspiring songs of which America can boast. The western bird mounts in the air and sings while on the wing in true lark habit, but our bird seems to have lost the habit of singing in the air, or never to have gained the