

Underneath yellow, shading into buffy brown, spotted or streaked with very dark brown. Outer tail feathers chiefly white, conspicuous in flight. Long, strong legs and claws adapted for walking. Less black in winter plumage which is more grayish brown. Female, paler than male.

RANGE: North America from Newfoundland to the Gulf of Mexico and westward to the plains, where the Western Meadowlark takes its place. Winters southward from Massachusetts and Illinois.

MIGRATIONS: April, late October. Occasionally remaining throughout the winter.

SONG: A tender, sweet, plaintive, flute-like whistle "*Spring-o'-the-year*," but he has several delightful songs. Usually he has a favourite platform—stump, fence, rock or mound, to which he goes for his musical performance only. A nasal sputtering call when disturbed.

NEST: *Position*,—on the ground, well-concealed amongst the grass. *Material*,—grass. *Eggs*,—four to six.

FLIGHT: Alternate flopping and sailing through the air. Not a good flyer.

FOOD: Mainly grasshoppers and other destructive insects.

HABITS: Shy, keeping well hidden in the grass. Turns its back to conceal its conspicuous yellow breast. It is a strong active walker, rarely flying except when disturbed, and then only for short distances.