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## Name That Bird © 2022

by Mark Pendleton

Welcome back to **NTB**! Thanks to today's photographer, Sara Kay, for reminding me about getting this feature back up and running again. The last installment was before the CBC, and now it's time to end the hiatus and get back to identifying bird photos.

For those of you for whom this is your first exposure to **NTB**, here's how it works. You submit a bird photo or photos (.jpg or .gif format please) that you want identified and your panel of three experienced MVAS birders does our best to oblige.

All this is a good lead-in to the next point: We need you to send in photos. They can be expertly composed and in sharp focus or completely devoid of artistic merit. The panel doesn't care. Just as long as the subject is a bird and we have a sporting chance of identifying it, we'll give it our best shot. Send photos to [mpndltn@gmail.com](mailto:mpndltn@gmail.com) and put **NTB** in the subject line. Please also include any other information about the photo — such as where and when taken, weather conditions when taken, any unusual circumstances surrounding it, and type of camera/lens, f stop, aperture, exposure time and ISO — that you deem interesting and relevant to the identification.

And now for the birds!

### Bird #1



All the panelists agree that the first photo is of a meadowlark. Panelist 3 said: "I'd say the first one is an Eastern Meadowlark — note not even a hint of yellow in the malar and the cheek pattern is pale."

Panelists 1 and 2 couldn't have said it better, although at the time of this writing, Panelist 1 still wasn't certain and wanted study the photo some more.

### Bird #2



Along with the photographer, the panelists recognized this as a hawk. Panelist 1 wasn't sure, but said he'd guess it was a Ferruginous Hawk if he had to make a call. All the pictures were taken in the Las Cruces area, and Panelist 1 wondered what time of year the hawk photo was taken. If he knew, he said, he'd submit it to the Facebook bird ID group to see what the consensus there was.

Panelist 2 called this bird a Ferruginous Hawk from the start. Evidence? The overall light coloration that's a blend of grey, whitish and pale rufous red on the wings, in combination with the light grayish white head and throat were the first clue. Then, there is the white line that extends from the throat towards the back of the neck. Also, the tail feathers have a reddish tint, but not so much as some Red-tailed Hawks while whites, grey and browns are also present. In addition, the lack of scapular

mottling suggests this is not a Red-tailed Hawk. However, Panelist 2 would like the ID of FEHA better if the wing tips extended further along the tail. These seem a bit short. Overall, though, he sticks with his first impression. Panelist 3 was less certain and suggested maybe a Red-shouldered Hawk.

### Bird#3



Panelist 3 was the first to express an opinion about this photo. Right from the start, he was convinced that the photo is of a Western Wood-Pewee. In his words: "The third one is a Western Wood-Pewee (note that the vest on the breast is pale gray and pale yellow up through the middle of the breast; Olive-sided has a darker, well-defined vest and white up the middle of the breast; also note the pale whitish wing bars, which are more common with the pewee, whereas the Olive-sided has very dusky to non-existent wing bars)." Panelist 1 agreed and Panelist 2 looked at the picture again, re-read Panelist 3's reasoning and concurred.

So, first a possibly female — if so, non-breeding plumage — Eastern Meadowlark, or it might be an immature bird of either sex, but an Eastern Meadowlark nevertheless. Then a light morph (by far the more common) Ferruginous Hawk, followed by a Western Wood-Pewee. Thanks to Sara Kay again for sending in these photos. And thank you for reading these lines.

Remember to send in your photos of birds to identify to [mpndltn@gmail.com](mailto:mpndltn@gmail.com) and be sure to put **NTB** in the subject line. Tell us where and when the photos were taken and give us any other info that might help to identify the bird.

We'll see you next time, when we Name That Bird!

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