

SMITH'S LONGSPUR SURVEY

Smith's Longspur was once listed as a common wintering bird in southern Iowa and must migrate through the state regularly, but until very recently it was unreported. There is still too little known about it.

Please participate in a search for this species from April 1 to April 15, the presumed time of spring migration.

Select suitable fields in your area. The birds like short grass, like airports, some pastures, and hayfields that were cut short in late fall. Get permission from the owners to walk through the field, and ask how big it is.

Walk through the field trying to flush Longspurs. Walk back and forth across the field, perhaps at 20 yard intervals.

Fill in the questionnaire below for each field you survey. (Request additional copies or xerox it if you survey more than one field.)

Name _____ County _____

Address _____

Is location ^{of} field shown on enclosed county map? _____
If not, describe its location, from the nearest town or major landmark.

This field is a ___ pasture, ___ hayfield, ___ sod farm,
___ edge of an airport, ___ other, explain _____
This field is ___ flat, ___ slightly sloping, ___ steep.
If it slopes, it faces ___ north, ___ south, ___ east, ___ west.
This field is now ___ dry, ___ damp, ___ soggy wet.
The grass is approximately _____ inches high.
Size of field _____ (Can be determined by asking owner
or inquiring at county ASCS office)
Date _____ Time of start of census _____ time of end _____

Number of birds seen (if not counted, mark "X")

_____ Smith's Longspur
_____ Horned Lark
_____ Lapland Longspur
_____ Meadowlark
_____ other _____
_____ other _____
_____ other _____
_____ other _____

Return completed questionnaires to T.H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240 by April 30. Thank you!