

Dwyer

Time April 6, 1982 about 4:00 PM

Place Five miles S/SW of Nichols Tower in Pike Township

Weather clear, calm, about 30° F

- ✓ Al Hahn & I were looking for Smith's longspurs and found about sixteen. We flushed them off a gravel road into corn stubble while driving. We stopped and they returned to the road. We observed them from ten to fifteen yards away. They had an overall buffy coloration, darker above. They were streaked above. The streaks below varied from bird to bird, but were never heavy. The ventral streaks were on the breasts & sides, the unstreaked belly & undertail were pale buffy but not white. They had faint white wingbars & a white eye ring. The birds were all in winter plumage. The tails had the pattern of a junco, white on the outside edges. No birds showed white shoulder patches. The legs were flesh color. We observed a singing male about seven feet up in a tree along the road. The song was finch-like. They were darker below than Vesper Sparrows and shorter tailed. They were darker below than Lapland Longspurs and without the breast smudge and chestnut hind neck. They also appeared smaller. We determined that they were Smith's Longspurs.

On April 9th I returned to the same area and found about nine birds. They appeared the

Same as the birds on the sixth of April except
one bird had white shoulder patches. No breeding
plumage birds

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