

Smith's Longspur

9 Apr 1982

5 mi. south of Nichols, Muscatine Co., IA

*Tim Dwyer

IBL 52:63; 53:36

Record Number: 82-17
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Timothy L. Dwyer

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 52:63

Records Committee: IBL 53:36

VOTE: 6-III, 1-IV

Good enough description.

Mainly because of white shoulder patches -- not convinced of others.

Detailed description does not rule out Vesper Sparrow; white shoulder patch not sufficient for identification.

REVOTE (at meeting, 20 November 1982):

for 6 April 1982 bird: 2-IV, 2-V, 3-VI

for 9 April 1982 bird: 6-III, 1-IV

Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation
by the Records Committee
of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

SPECIES: Smith's Longspur

DATE SEEN: 6,9 April 1982

SITE OF OBSERVATION: 5 mi. S. of Nichols, Muscatine Co., Iowa

OBSERVERS: T. Dwyer

DATE OF REVIEW: November 1982

METHOD OF REVIEW: Discussion followed by secret ballot.

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: The April 6 records were classified as Class V;

COMMENTS: the Committee felt that the description was not sufficiently detailed to rule out similar species such as vesper sparrow.

The April 9 record was classified as a Class III record,
an accepted sight record.

The opinions expressed here are based on the information available to the Committee and should not necessarily preclude an alternate interpretation by those who observed the bird firsthand.

Any action may be re-reviewed upon submission of additional evidence.

Explanation of Classification:

- I = labeled, diagnostic specimen, photograph, or recording available for review by the Committee
- II = acceptable sight record documented independently by 3 or more observers
- III = acceptable sight record documented by 1 or 2 observers
- IV = probably correct record, but not beyond doubt
- V = record with insufficient evidence to judge
- VI = probably incorrect identification, escapee, or otherwise unacceptable record

Classification is based on the highest category agreed upon by six of seven committee members.

Dwyer
82-17

Time April 6, 1982, about 4:00 PM
Place Five miles S/SW of Nichols Iowa 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

82-17

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

Timothy J. Dwyer
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