

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 09/01/93

Smith's Longspur

28 Mar 1982

northwest of Red Oak, Montgomery Co., IA

\*F. Moore

IBL 52:63; 53:36

Record Number: 82-14

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Francis L. Moore

REFERENCES

Field Reports: 52:63

Records Committee: 53:36

VOTE: 7-III

III, Field marks all noted.

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

SPECIES: Smith's Longspur

DATE SEEN: 28 March 1982

SITE OF OBSERVATION: 2 mi. N, 2 mi. W of Red Oak, Montgomery Co., Iowa

OBSERVERS: F. Moore

DATE OF REVIEW: 22 August 1982

METHOD OF REVIEW: mail vote

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: III

COMMENTS: The records committee felt that the essential field marks were all well noted in this sighting.

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.

What species? Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*) How many? 7

Location? 2½ mi W. of Red Oak, U.S. 34, then 2 mi North on gravel road near stream  
 Montgomery Co.

Type of habitat? wet short grass field

When? date(s): March 28, 1982 time: 3:55 p.m. to 3:58 p.m.

Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 264 Western Ave., Waterloo, IA 50701

others with you: No

others before or after you: No

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

I was driving North on gravel road from U.S. 34 when a flash of wings caught my eye out in a pasture along side the road (on the East side of the road). I walked out into the field slowly trying to see what had made the motion. I moved back and forth around the location where I had seen the motion and finally saw one bird move a little. I then viewed it through my binoculars from about 30 feet. The bird had a very buffy coloration to its throat and belly with a buffy band running around the base of the neck and up around the nape. The bird also had some darker markings on its head that left a white eye stripe and white colored ear patch (indistinct one). Which appeared to be going into full breeding plumage but was not quite into the that plumage. The bird also have a distinct white wing patch on the upper wing coverts. (almost like expanded feather edging to the upper wing coverts). The last two or three tail feathers were white, with the rest being a dark brown about the color as the birds back. The bill was a light color. The dark areas on the head was a gray color approaching black. (only got a good look at one bird. When I moved the other birds flew from around the one bird that I viewed. All birds showed the large amount of white in the tail. The call was a dry rattle on a higher pitch than the <sup>Lapland Long-</sup> ~~Spur~~ Similar species and how eliminated: Lapland Longspur does not have buffy breast or buffy colored collar around side of throat on to nape. Lapland Longspur does not have as much white in tail (outer tail feathers) as these birds did.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Good viewing conditions but was starting to get dark. Had good view of bird through 7x35 mm B+L Roof prism binoculars from approx 30 feet.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: No previous experience with Smith's Longspur, lots of experience with Lapland Longspur.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? 1 hour this form completed? 2 days

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240