

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 09/01/93

Smith's Longspur

12 Mar 1983

2 east, 1 south of Hills, Johnson Co., IA

*T. Kent

IBL 53:55; 54:39

Record Number: 83-12

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Thomas H. Kent

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 53:55

Records Committee: IBL 54:39

VOTE: 6-III, 1-abstain

III, Observer familiar with species, well seen.

What species? Sm. Thr's Longspur How many? 200Location? 2 e. 15. Hills, Johnson Co. IAType of habitat? Old soy bean stubble, moist in areasWhen? date(s): 12 Mar 1983 time: 12:30^{-1:00} to 1:50^{-2:15} pmWho? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St Iowa City IA 52240others with you: Carl Bendorf, Rick Hillis (first part)

others before or after you: _____

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.

First saw birds flying up from behind rise in field with white outer tail feathers and yellowish underparts. Could not localize them on ground. We went back after taking Rick home + asked farmer for permission to walk field. About 200 birds kept flushing 10-20 yards ahead of us. White outer tail feathers (like Vesper Sparrow), yellowish to buffy underparts, white shoulder patches on some. A few could be seen on the ground - plain buffy to yellow underparts. Triangular white face markings seen on one. Some dark fences present. None of males were bright yellow. Facial pattern not fully black + white yet. Tik-Tik-Tik noise heard well as flock more about in front of us. We had heard the more insistent note of Lapland Longspurs earlier in the day.

Similar species and how eliminated: Other longspurs by tail, wing patch, underparts + note.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? _____

If yes, explain: Rick did not see birds as well and Carl + I did.

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: cloudy, 10-200 yards, 8x binocs, 20x scope

Previous experience with species and similar ones: have seen last 3 years + once in Alaska.

References and persons consulted before writing description: none

How long before field notes made? 1 hr this form completed? 1 hr

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