

Chestnut-collared Longspur
15 Apr 1986
Woodbury Co., IA
Dick Bierman
IBL 56:92, Bierman 1986, Dinsmore 1992

Record Number: 93-IE
Classification: A-S

SPECIMEN

Iowa State University, #2509

PHOTOGRAPH

J. J. Dinsmore, P-0239 (IBL 56:95)

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 56:92

Bierman, D. 1986. Chestnut-collared Longspur in Woodbury County. IBL 56:95.

Dinsmore, J. J. 1992. Recent additions to the Iowa State University bird collection. IBL 62:1-8.

Photograph: IBL 56:95 (P-0239)

VOTE: 5 A-S

A-S, Bierman describes male Chestnut-collared Longspurs with black underparts except for yellow throat, rusty collar, and inverted black V on tail. Bierman's color photos of dead bird (also P-0239, but not duplicated for review) show spread tail. The outer two tail feathers are white except for a thin black line along the shaft. The inner tail feathers are black distally and white proximally. For Lapland, the outer tail feather is white, and inner feathers are all black except for white inner tip to 2nd outer feather. McCown's has only outer tail feather all white (except for outer edge at tip). Inner feathers form a black inverted T. Smith's has outer two tail feathers white with black outer edge at tip and inner feathers all white. The color photo of the dead bird shows the chestnut collar, but the underparts are not shown. The chin does appear light./thk

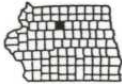
825 7th Ave., Iowa City, IA 52240

On December 10, 1985 I made a trip to the tailwater area below Red Rock Reservoir dam in Marion County in order to look for a white-winged gull found two days earlier by Darwin Koenig. I arrived at 2 p.m. and found 200 Herring Gulls and 12 Ring-billed Gulls flying, feeding, or resting on several sand bars. Soon, Tom Kent arrived and we spent some time studying and photographing a first-winter Glaucous Gull. While scanning the main group of gulls on a sand bar I noticed a first-winter Herring type bird that was lighter and slightly smaller than the 1st winter Herring Gulls.

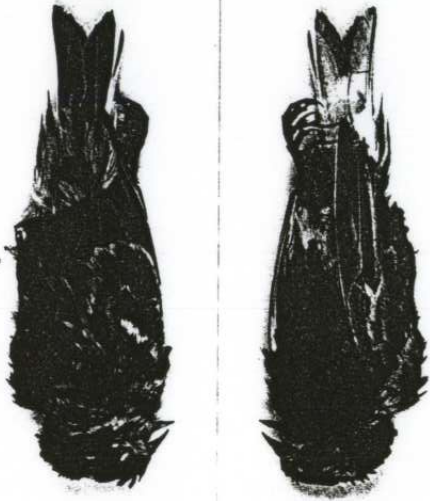
The bill was smaller in proportion (by length) than that of a Herring Gull. It was all black and did not have a pronounced gonys. The eye was dark. The legs appeared dark, perhaps with a slight reddish cast especially on the back side of the legs. The body was uniform light brown and finely mottled. The mottling was a bit coarser on the wings and the mantle. The exposed primaries on the folded wing were a darker shade of brown. The overall color was both lighter and more uniform than nearby first-winter Herrings; however, compared to the first-winter Glaucous, this bird was closer in color to the Herrings.

After about 15 minutes, I flushed the resting gull flock and followed the bird in question with binoculars as it circled at 50 to 150 yards. From below the secondaries and all of the primaries were uniform silvery-white. I did not see any dark in the primaries, even at the tip. The upperwing surface was uniformly colored over the whole length of the wing and was the same color as the back. From above the outer primaries and trailing edge of the wing were a little darker than the rest of the wing. The tail had a terminal band similar to that of first-winter Herring Gulls, except the color was lighter than a Herring, similar to the rest of the body of the bird. The bird was flushed twice on this heavily overcast day. Both Tom Kent and I took photographs of the bird.

THAYERS'S GULL AT RED ROCK RESERVOIR
CARL J. BENDORF



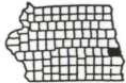
Chestnut-collared Longspur specimen. Photos by J. J. Dinsmore.



901 Harris, Cherokee, IA 51012

On 15 April 1986, I was traveling down Iowa Highway 31 in Woodbury County after a spring blizzard, so there was snow on the ground. On the shoulder of the highway, large numbers of birds were gathering. About two miles north of Smithland, I noticed some unusual birds flare from the edge of the road and alight again as we passed. I turned around and drove back slowly, parked, and watched the eleven birds from about fifty feet with my 7 x 35 binoculars. They were sparrow-size with short tails and stocky bodies. The breasts, sides and bellies were black. The nape was rust-colored. They had a yellowish throat that was separated from the black by a thin white necklace. Above the eye was a white eyebrow. The crown was black. The black on the tail formed an inverted "V" as the birds flew. I had seen this species at Felton Prairie in Clay County, Minnesota last summer and knew them to be Chestnut-collared Longspurs. The next day, as I passed the same location, I drove slowly and was able to find a road-killed specimen, which confirmed my sighting. The specimen has been sent to Iowa State University. I feel that the strong storm had pushed the birds east of their normal migrational path, which is to the west of Iowa.

CHRSTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR
IN WOODBURY COUNTY
DICK BIERMAN



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JF

Barn Owl: A female was found dead by Art Janison of Randall near Fort Atkinson, Winnebuck County on 28 November 1981 (#1714). It had a broken wing. Jack McCure found a male caught in some wire in a barn near Ottumwa, Wapello County on 10 May 1983 (#1729, IBL 53:51). Black-billed Magpie: A female taken by Phillip DuMont north of Hawarden, Sioux County on 11 February 1934 (#2087) is one of the few specimens of this species from Iowa (Fig. 8). It was in a flock of seven birds.



Figure 8. Black-billed Magpie (#2087) taken near Hawarden, Iowa.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Two were found dead beneath the television towers near Alleman, Polk County on 14 September 1982 (Dinsmore et al. 1983, IBL 52:124). One is a male (#1783) and the other is an immature female (#1776). These apparently are the only Iowa specimens of this rare migrant (Fig. 9).
 Pine Warbler: Lanny Haldy of Amana found an immature male (#1830) dead in Amana, Iowa County on 23 September 1985 (Fig. 9). It had flown into a window.

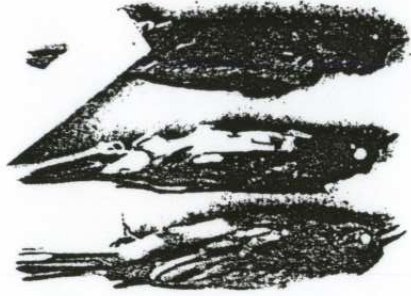


Figure 9. Pine Warbler (top, #1830) taken at Amana, Iowa and Black-throated Blue Warblers (middle and bottom, #1783 and #1776 respectively) taken near Alleman, Iowa.

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Blue Grosbeak: A male was found dead by Barb Wilson of Hastings near Silver City, Mills County on 3 July 1980. Originally #563 in the University of Nebraska, Omaha collection, Wilson arranged for its exchange to Iowa State where it is now specimen #1746. Since the whereabouts of a male taken by Youngworth on 23 June 1934 north of Sioux City in Plymouth County (Youngworth 1934) are unknown, this is the only specimen from Iowa (Fig. 10).

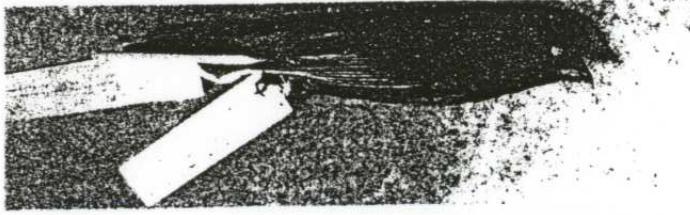


Figure 10. Blue Grosbeak (#1746) taken near Silver City, Iowa.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: Dick Bierman of Cherokee found a road-killed male near Smithland in Woodbury County on 16 April 1986 (Bierman 1986). He had seen a flock of 11 birds there the previous day. The bird was in poor condition, and I could only prepare a flattened skin (#2509, IBL 56:92). A photograph of the specimen was published previously (Bierman 1986). This is the first specimen record from Iowa.
 Sharp-tailed Sparrow: DuMont donated five skins of this uncommon migrant. Four were taken at Little Wall Lake, Hamilton County on 30 September 1933; a juvenile female (#2179), two juvenile males (#2180 and 2182), and an adult female (#2181). DuMont collected two other specimens that day that were placed in the D. J. Bullock collection (DuMont 1934); those specimens apparently have been lost. The other bird, a juvenile female (#2183) was taken north of Ames in Story County in September 1932.
 Henslow's Sparrow: DuMont collected a male near Brenton's Slough in northwestern Polk County on 13 May 1934 (#2178).
 Brewer's Blackbird: DuMont's collection included three Iowa birds: a male taken by Logan J. Bennett in Emmet County on 13 April 1934 (#2277), a male taken by DuMont north of Ruthven, Palo Alto County on 17 April 1934 (#2275), and a male taken by DuMont north of Laurens in Palo Alto County on 3 May 1935 (#2276). The latter bird is the third latest spring report of the species in Iowa.

DISCUSSION

A total of 28 species (plus one hybrid) are reported here. Five of these (Purple Gallinule, Least Tern, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, Chestnut-collared Longspur) represent the only currently existing specimens from Iowa.
 The 379 skins from the DuMont collection had been held privately for many years and include 180 specimens that are from Iowa. Among these are the six species discussed in the results. Three other species are represented by large series of specimens from Iowa: Horned Lark-29, Savannah Sparrow-18, and Red-winged Blackbird-31. Many of these have been identified to subspecies and have been commented on earlier (DuMont 1933c).

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