

Smith's Longspur
13 Mar 1983
Doolittle Prairie, Story Co., IA
*J. Schaufenbuel
IBL 53:55; 54:39

Record Number: 83-13
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Joe P. Schaufenbuel

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 53:55
Records Committee: IBL 54:39

VOTE: 6-III, 1-abstain

III, Well seen; breeding plumage male.

III, Unusually good plumage. Good description too.

What species? Smith's Longspur How many? I-2 83-13 III
 Location? D o l i t t l e P r a i r i e, (3 mi. S. Story City) Story Co., Iowa
 Type of habitat? wet area in weedy farm field
 When? date(s): March 13, 1983 time: 4:30 p.m. to 4:40
 Who? your name and address: Joe P. Schaufenbuel, 924 Pammel Ct., Ames, IA
 others with you: Alan Branhagen, 310 Mound St., Decorah, IA 52101
 others before or after you: NA

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.

House Sparrow-sized bird with conical bill. Bill: dark--gray, brownish. Legs: pink-brown. Black crown. White superciliary extending back to nape. Dark triangular mark encircling a white ear patch. Underparts buffy orange-yellow from throat, belly, nape to undertail. Wings were brown and black with a white patch at the shoulder seen when bird flushed and landed several times. Tail brown with much white in border of tail. Bird was very tame and was follow through the weed stubble on several occasions. On one instance the bird perched on a clump of weed stubble to give an excellent view of its plumage. The bird was a male which was in complete nuptial plumage at this early date. When flushed it gave a rapid, loose clicking call. It never gave a whistle call. At one time another longspur was flushed but could not be identified by plumage though its call sounded similar to the above bird. The above bird was stalked, flushed and observed in flight several times. Each time the bird was flushed it would call then circle and land in almost the same spot from which it was originally found.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Broken clouds were obscuring light except on a few occasions. But on one occasion was seen in bright light at a good angle. Closest approach: 20 ft

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen species previously.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Peterson's guide.

How long before field notes made? I hour this form completed? 6 hours.

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

Joe P. Schaufenbuel