

Chestnut-collared Longspur
23 Apr 1992
Fremont Co., IA
*B.J. Rose

Record Number: 92-28
Classification: A-S

IBL 62:81, 63:70, P-0335, AB 46:432

DOCUMENTATION

B. J. Rose, 14937 "N" St., Omaha, NE 68137 (6/30/93)

PHOTOGRAPHS

B. J. Rose, P-0335

SPECIMEN

Iowa State University #2568

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 62:81

Photo: Am. Birds 46:432, 1992, P-0335

Records Committee: IBL 63:70

VOTE: 1 A-S, 6 A-P

A-S, I also saw this specimen on 23 April 1992 before it was given to ISU. (I got there in time to see a dead CCL but a live Little Gull!!!)

A-P, Photos are of Male with yellow on face and also showing diagnostic head pattern for this species. Photo of female with black on breast, breast with light streaking, buffy head, buffy breast, chestnut tinge on nape, lack of chestnut in wing coverts are diagnostic too.

A-P, Breeding-plumaged male very distinctive in good photo.

(KMc). The Red-breasted Nuthatch migration was virtually nonexistent; the only observation exceeding one bird occurred in Madison, KY, where two were observed (DC). Brown Creepers were also scarce; the highest Regional count was 15 at Urbana, IL, Apr. 12 (RC). Bewick's Wrens were reported in all states except Ohio. The easternmost occurrence was at the Migrant Trap, IN, where an Apr. 11 sighting provided n.w. Indiana's first record in 30 years (ASi, RHu). Two were also discovered at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., IA, May 9-28 (†JF, †RPi). Winter Wrens were reported sparingly from all states except Missouri; the highest count was nine at Urbana, IL, Apr. 15 (RC). A Marsh Wren at McGinnis Slough, IL, Mar. 15 (JHo *et al.*) was very early; the season's highest count was eight at L. Cal., May 9 (WM). A Golden-crowned Kinglet was reported to be on territory in Hinkley, OH (RH). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reports were quite positive; the highest among numerous double-digit counts was 30 in the Danville-Urbana, IL, area Apr. 19 (RC, SB). A peak of 28 migrating E. Bluebirds was recorded at the Indiana Dunes hawkwatch Mar. 6 (KB *et al.*).

The Region's only Townsend's Solitaire, found at the Polk City Cemetery May 17 provided the latest Iowa record (†PH). The general consensus regarding the thrush migration was favorable, though some reservations existed for the Gray-cheeked. An early Swainson's Thrush at Magee Marsh, OH, Apr. 20 (ES), was vanguard to a fine flight. A count of 65 Hermit Thrush in Chicago Apr. 11 (JL) was the best among a number of fine tallies. Wood Thrush reports were less optimistic but still generally positive. A ♀ Varied Thrush in Spfld., Apr. 6 was believed to be the same bird seen at Adams Sanctuary in December (DB). Gray Catbirds were common, N. Mockingbirds appear to be expanding N, and the 65+ Brown Thrashers in Chicago Apr. 19 (RHu, JO, CPh) constitutes the highest count ever recorded for the state. American Pipits were recorded in every state except Indiana; high counts included 1000 in *Highland*, OH, Mar. 28 (*vide* NK), 340 in *Pulaski*, IL, Mar. 13 (TF), and 220+ at *Headlands Beach S.P.* (LR). The elusive Sprague's Pipit was identified in *Pulaski*, IL, Apr. 18 when a bird flushed from a fescue pasture was carefully studied (†TF and DRo). Cedar Waxwings were generally more common in eastern portions of the Region. Northern Shrikes were recorded in 4 states, the latest at Princeton Marsh, IA, Apr. 5 (†DDo). Loggerhead Shrikes appeared in every state; highlights included a northerly record at O'Brian Lock & Dam, Chicago Apr. 12 (SE, CA), and a nest containing seven eggs in Iowa, May 16 (HY).

VIREOS, WARBLERS

The vireo migration was slightly early, but otherwise typical. Somewhat out of place were Bell's Vireos at L. Cal. May 21-31 (JL, WM, m. ob.), and Buck Creek S.P., OH, May 30 (DOv). The highest Solitary Vireo counts included five at Spfld., May (DB) and four at Mary Gray Sanctuary, IN, May 2 (AB). Philadelphia Vireos were more plentiful than Solitary Vireos; peak counts were eight at Urbana, IL, May 17 (RC) and five at Crane Creek, OH, May 17 (LR).

Warbler migration began early and failed to reach a distinct peak; there were no major waves and few large concentrations, even in the Great Lakes traps. In many areas the flight extended well into June. Observer assessments of the flight ranged from very poor to better than average. Blue-winged Warblers at Shimek S.F., IA, Apr. 20 (RCe) and in



Female Chestnut-collared Longspur in Fremont County, Iowa, on 23 April 1992. Photograph/ B. J. Rose.

Pope, IL, Apr. 15 (TF), were early. Normal Golden-winged Warbler numbers appeared in all states; six in *Champaign*, IL, May 9 (RC) was encouraging. Observers in Indiana and Kentucky deemed Tennessee Warblers scarce, but 150+ were found in Urbana, IL, May 12 (RC). Despite 13 Orange-crowned Warblers at LaBagh Woods, *Cook*, IL, (DBr, MH) the Region-wide flight was average. Seven Apr. 18 Nashville Warblers in *Union*, IL, (TF) were precursors of a fine flight that extended through mid-May, producing counts of 53 at the Skokie Lagoons, IL, May 9, and 29 in Spfld. May 4 (DB). Cape May Warblers were both early and late: Apr. 19 at Salamonie R.S.F (RR), June 3 at Dunes S.P., IN (LH). Accidental within the Region, an "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler at Wooster College, OH, Apr. 23-28 (†FD *et al.*) is noteworthy. A ♂ Black-throated Gray Warbler discovered at Baldwin L., *Cuyahoga* Apr. 26 remained until May 3 (†RH, m.ob. ph.) providing one of few verified spring records for Ohio. A very early Black-throated Green Warbler was seen Mar. 29 in Ozark, IL (TF). It was deemed a good year for Blackburnian Warblers in Danville, KY (FL) and at Ryerson Conservation Area, IL, where 18 were counted May 4 (DJ). An early Pine

Warbler at Chicago's Jackson Park, Mar. 8 (KCa) was forerunner to an above-average flight. Notable counts included 10 at Natural Bridge S.P., KY, Apr. 10 (JBe, PB) and 4+ at the Chicago Botanical Gardens Apr. 29 (RB, LB). A singing ♂ Prairie Warbler was present May 7-28 in Shimek S.F., IA (†MJ, †JF, †m. ob.), where this species is casual. A Palm Warbler, possibly of the yellow eastern form, was found among typical western birds in *Sangamon*, IL, May 1-2 (†DB). Bay-breasted Warblers were more common than normal. Despite the early arrival of four Blackpolls in *Alexander*, IL, Apr. 21 (TF, JD), this warbler was uncommon, especially in Indiana. Record-early Cerulean Warblers arrived in Iowa, at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., Apr. 18 and at Shimek S.F. Apr. 19 (RCe). Black-and-white Warblers drew few comments, but 15 observed at Natural Bridge S.P., KY (JBe, PB) is a noteworthy number. Outstanding among numerous encouraging Am. Redstart reports was a remarkable 255 seen along the Kaskaskia R., IL, May 19 (TF, VK). Observers tallied an equally impressive 31 Prothonotary Warblers at the same site Apr. 25. Ovenbirds and N. Waterthrush were more common than normal; 22 of the latter were recorded in Piatt, IL, May 2 (RC). The *Oporornis* flight was typical; notable early records included a Kentucky Warbler at Richmond, IN, Apr. 19 (JMc) and Mourning Warblers at 2 locations in Iowa, and one in Illinois May 2. Early Hooded Warblers appeared at Hickory Hill Pk., IA, Apr. 19 (JF) and at Lamb's Grove, IA, (GBr) on the same date. Wilson's Warblers also arrived early as evidenced by one at Rockford, IL, Apr. 22 (JDo).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

During the 3rd week of April, Summer Tanagers surged N rendering this species more common than usual in n. Illinois, and n.w. Indiana. Scarlet Tanager reports were typical, with 14 in Urbana, IL, May 10 (RC *et al.*) and 8 near Palos, IL, May 14 (WS). The April tanager influx also brought two summer plumaged ♂ Western Tanagers into n. Illinois. The first was well-described as it fed on sunflower seeds in a Hinsdale backyard Apr. 16 (†SR *et al.*). The 2nd tanager was seen along a creek in Starved Rock S.P., *LaSalle* Apr. 28 (†JH). A typical Indigo Bunting flight was introduced by early singletons in Richmond, IN, Apr. 15 (WB), *Union*, IL, Apr. 16 (TF) and *Lee*, Iowa, Apr. 20 (RCe). The maximum count consisted of 160 in *Gibson*, IN, May 10 (GB). A Dickcissel, seen at an Evanston, IL, feeder Mar. 21 (RD), was extremely early. Kentucky's first Green-tailed Towhee visited a Central City feeding station May 6-9. It was discovered by 9-year old Jenny Nease (†SN, AS, MS, m.ob.

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92-28

Chestnut-collared Long P-0335
s. of Percival, Fremont Co., IA
23 Apr 1992 B. J. Rose 72-28

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Chestnut-collared Long P-0454
s. of Percival, Fremont Co., IA
23 Apr 1992 Iowa State U. spec

92-28

Smith's Longspur P-0455
near Larrabee, Cherokee Co., IA
29 Apr 1994 D. Koenig, ISU spe

Chestnut-collared Long P-0454
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Chestnut-collared Long P-0454
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DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTING
by B. J. Rose
14937 "N" St.
Omaha, NE 68137

Species: Chestnut-collared Longspur

No. of birds seen: 25 Sex: Males and females Plumage: Breeding Adults

Date(s): April 23, 1992 Time bird seen: 12:30 p.m. to 12:40 p.m.

Locality: (Nearest town, county, state) : Approximately 2 1/2 miles south of Percival, Fremont County, Iowa on Hwy L31 (about 1 mile north of Hwy 2).

Optical equipment: 10x40 Optolith binoculars.

If photographed, copy is enclosed. 2 prints Equipment used: 35 mm Nikon w/400 mm Sigma lens with 1.4x converter.

Light conditions: Fairly bright sun.

Distance from bird: 20 - 75 yards; How measured: Estimated

Bird's behavior: The birds were feeding along the roadside and in adjacent stubble.

Habitat: Roadside and stubble.

Other observers (w/names & addresses): Babs Padelford - Bellevue, NE.

Description of bird(s): Males showed varying amounts of black, buff and orangish patches in the facial patterns and chesnut-colored hind collars. Females were typical.

Description of calls or sounds, and method of delivery: None heard.

Prior experience with this and similar species: I have seen this species over many western states.

This report was written from notes made during observation _____; after observation X; or from memory _____. Date of documentation 5/14/92; Date of observation 4/23/92.

Other information: We saw another flock of five about 6 miles north of this flock. A road-killed male was found near the reported flock. Babs Padelford plans to give the specimen to Jim Dinsmore at Iowa State.

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Date 5/14/92