

Smith's Longspur
19 Apr 1983
northeast, Mills Co., IA
*B. Wilson
IBL 54:40

Record Number: 83-10
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Barbara L. Wilson

REFERENCE

Records Committee: 54:40

VOTE: 1-III, 4-IV, 1-V, 1-abstain

IV, I echo her doubts.

V, Inadequate view of bird.

IV, description not detailed enough.

IV, Likely, but probably not well enough seen to clinch ID.

Note minor error in description that I've corrected.

83-10
IV

Documentation of unlikely bird

Smith's Longspur

1 seen - February 19, 1983

Wilson Farm, NE Mills County, Iowa

Note: I was quite surprised to go home + look up this bird + find it seemed to be Smith's Longspur. The viewing conditions (it was seen flying) + my lack of experience with the species may cause sufficient doubt that you prefer to omit the sighting.

Description: Small finch-like bird flying low. Brown below, + the belly is buffy to the tail. Tail short, notched, black. Edge is narrowly black. (White seemed to extend from base of tail to tip) (Seemed to have a little pattern on the breast.)

Voice - gave a difficult-to-describe call note that seemed to have ~~several~~ several parts. It's a note I associate with open-field birds like Horned Larks + Longspurs, + I thought it a Longspur before I could see it well.

Similar species: Lapland Longspurs should have white bellies rather than buffy ones. The voice makes me think it is an open-field bird + not a sparrow or something like that.

Habitat: Flying over open fields near woods.

Viewing conditions. Seen about 9:50 am. It was low - 15 ft. high or less, maybe 30 ft. away. 8.5x binoculars. West of me, flying south. Sunny weather. Books consulted after the description (I had no book with me at the time).

Description written Feb. 27 from notes taken just after the sighting.

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