

Chestnut-collared Longspur  
20 Mar 1985  
Hendrickson M., Story Co., IA  
\*S. Dinsmore  
IBL 55:70; 56:44

Record Number: 85-08  
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Steve Dinsmore

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 55:70  
Records Committee: IBL 56:44

VOTE: 7-III

- III, As with Smith's, this species probably easily overlooked.
- III, The search for Smith's Longspurs may well prove that our other longspurs are present in small but regular numbers.
- III, Excellent description.
- III, Good description.

85-08

Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation  
by the Records Committee  
of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

SPECIES: Chestnut-collared Longspur

DATE SEEN: 20 March 1985

SITE OF OBSERVATION: Story County

OBSERVERS: Steve Dinsmore

DATE OF REVIEW: October 1985

METHOD OF REVIEW: Committee mail vote

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: III

COMMENTS: The excellent description removed any doubt as to the correctness of the identification. There are very few records for this species in Iowa.

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The opinions expressed here are based on the information available to the Committee and should not necessarily preclude an alternate interpretation by those who observed the bird firsthand.

Any action may be re-reviewed upon submission of additional evidence.

Explanation of Classification:

- I: labeled, diagnostic specimen, photograph, or recording available for review by the Committee
- II: acceptable sight record documented independently by 3 or more observers
- III: acceptable sight record documented by 1 or 2 observers
- IV: probably correct record, but not beyond doubt
- V: record with insufficient evidence to judge
- VI: probably incorrect identification, escapee, or otherwise unacceptable record.

Classification is based on the highest category agreed upon by six of seven Committee members.



What species? Chestnut-collared Longspur How many? 2 ♂Location? 1.5 miles north of Hendrickson Marsh, Story Co.Type of habitat? low area in a soybean stubble fieldWhen? date(s): 20 March, 1985 time: 5:15 PM to 5:45 PMWho? your name and address: Steve Dinjmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50010others with you: Gordon Brown, Ames

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.

The birds were small, approximately 5" long: about the size of a sparrow. They appeared to be the same size as the lapland longspurs with which they associated.

The birds were very aggressive, often chasing nearby lapland longspurs while emitting a few low buzzy notes.

The bill was dark in color, short, and somewhat conical in shape

Head - crown was black; face was white except for a black ear mark  
Throat was white with a faint hint of yellow or buff color near bill.

A band of reddish-brown color extended from the lower throat around the back of head forming a ring around the birds neck.

The back was mostly a light brown color. The wings were also brown colored. No white wing bars were seen.

Below the reddish band on neck, the bird showed solid black color on breast and belly that extended down to legs. The undertail area was white. The tail appeared dark with some white on edges and near rump.

The legs were hard to see, but looked dark in color.

The birds were feeding in a flock of about 500 Lapland Longspurs. Although small groups of Laplands were flying about, the Chestnut-collared longspurs were never seen in flight.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Distinguished from Smith's and McCown's longspurs by reddish neck band and extensive black on belly.

Distinguished from lapland longspur by extensive black on belly, black ear mark contrasting with white cheek, yellow on throat and lack of streaking on sides.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, explain:

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

Light was fair: sky clear with sun behind me. Estimated viewing distance of 30-50'. Optical equipment used: B&H 20x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen several <sup>Chestnut-collared</sup> in the Dakotas and Nebraska.  
I have seen Smith's and lapland in Iowa.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

NGS Field Guide to Birds of North America Golden Guide, Robbins et al. Guide to Birds of North America

How long before field notes made? \_\_\_\_\_ this form completed? 16 hours

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