

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/24/00

Chestnut-collared Longspur

12 Apr 1997

southwest of Percival, Fremont Co., IA

*B & L Padelford

IBL 67:92, 68:86, Padelfords 1998

Record Number: 97-33

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Babs and Loren Padelford, 1405 Little John Rd., Bellevue, NE
68005 [*10/1/97]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 67:92

Records Committee: IBL 68:86

Padelford, B., and L. Padelford. 1998. Chestnut-collared
Longspur in Fremont County. IBL 68:103.

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, 2 males.

97-33

silhouette was distinctive. The skinny, almost pencil-thin neck was held straight in front of the bird, and lacked an obvious head. The tail was noticeably longer than the length of the neck and was fanned as the bird soared. The leading edges of the wings were straight and held perpendicular to the body. The only size comparison was with Broad-winged Hawks. This bird was clearly much larger, roughly twice the length of a Broad-winged Hawk. This bird's wingspan was also at least 50% greater. The identification was based largely on this flight silhouette. I concluded that the bird was a female or immature because of the paler neck and upper breast. This represents the second record of an Anhinga in Iowa. The other record was of a female or immature from 18-31 October 1953 near Riverton in Fremont County (Mrs. W. H. Collins, *Iowa Bird Life* 23:72, 1953).

612 1/2 West Magnolia St. Fort Collins, CO 80521

LAZULI BUNTING IN MILLS COUNTY

THOMAS H. KENT

A male Lazuli Bunting first appeared the feeder of Anna Leich in the Loess Hills of rural Mills County north of Glenwood about 6 p.m. on 23 May 1997. She noticed an unusual bird feeding on the seed that was spread on patio and, with the help of a field guide, identified it. I saw and photographed the bird on 27 May, and Reid Allen photographed it on 26 May.



Over the next week the bunting came to feed regularly and was seen by many visitors. It preferred to feed on the patio rather than at one of the several feeders that were regularly attended by other species. It usually dropped down to the ground from the trees in the back yard and returned at regular intervals during the day. It was easily frightened by movement or camera noise, but this was easily prevented by viewing from inside the house. It was present all day on 29 May but was not seen after that.

The Lazuli Bunting was slightly larger than American Goldfinches and slightly smaller than House Finches that were also present at the ground feeding area. It had a compact body and conical bill. It had a blue hood with sharp demarcation on the upper breast and less sharp demarcation on the nape. There was black around the eye and in the loreal area. The upper mandible was mostly dark and the lower mandible flesh-colored. On the front and below the blue, there was a band of cinnamon that curved from the sides to the center of the breast. It faded to white on the lower breast. The belly and under tail were white. The back, wings, and tail were nondescript brown-black with some blue shading, and the rump was blue. There was a prominent white upper wing bar and thinner brownish lower wing bar. The back was streaked. The legs were dark.



Lazuli Bunting, Mills Co.,
26 May 1997, Reid Allen.

The location in the Loess Hill north of Glenwood has mixed open and wooded habitat with conifers present in the neighbor's yard to the north. Many species of

birds frequent the Leich's feeders. At this time there were about six Red Crossbills and several Pine Siskins. Mrs. Leich picked up and released a recently fledged Pine Siskin on 25 May.

Prior to 1997 there were eight confirmed records of Lazuli Bunting for Iowa with seven from northwestern and one from southwestern Iowa and all from spring/early summer. This species has been found each year since 1994 and there are three other records from 1997. Also, four of the recent records have been at feeders. Does this represent an increased vagrancy of this species or just an increased awareness on the part of observers in western Iowa?

211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPURS IN FREMONT COUNTY

BABS AND LOREN PADELFORD

On 12 April 1997, after a heavy snowfall on 11 April, we were in southern Fremont County looking for Chestnut-collared Longspurs. In late morning we encountered a flock of about 45 longspurs about one half mile north of Highway 2 on the Percival Road. The flock was foraging along the side of the road. In the flock of Lapland Longspurs, we identified two male Chestnut-collared in breeding plumage.



The birds were the size of the Lapland Longspurs with sparrow-like conical bills. The top of their heads was black. There was white above the eye and a black stripe through the eye. The throat was yellow. The nape of the neck was chestnut-colored. The belly and breast were black. The back was brown with brown streaks. The black tails showed more white along the sides than the Lapland Longspurs.

The two birds were feeding together on the road. Eventually the Lapland Longspurs flew, but the two Chestnut-collared Longspurs returned to feed for several minutes at a distance of about 30 to 50 feet from our car.

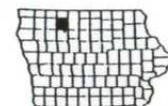
It is interesting to note that Tom Kent found Chestnut-collared Longspurs on the same date, 12 April, in 1995 in Sioux and Lyon counties in northwestern Iowa (IBL 66:61-63). We had previously found Chestnut-collared Longspurs in the same area in Fremont County on 22 and 23 April 1992 (IBL 62:81). All sightings occurred after heavy snowfall had concentrated migrating birds along the roads.

1405 Little John Rd. Bellevue, NE 68005

LAZULI BUNTINGS TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS IN CLAY COUNTY

LEE A. SCHOENEWE

On 29 May 1995, I had spent the day birding with Harold White and after arriving home in the late afternoon, I received a phone call from Harold. He had received a phone message that a Lazuli Bunting was visiting a feeder just south of Spencer. The feeder was located on the acreage of Russ and Ellen Heine, a beautifully landscaped farmstead with a variety of trees, shrubs, and plants. They have a small man-made pond with water pumped up and cascading over rocks into a



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Babs & Loren Padelford ~~1405~~
1405 Little John Rd. ~~Bellevue,~~
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Documentation for Chestnut-collared Longspur

Location: Percival Road, approximately one half mile north of Highway 2, Fremont County, Iowa

Date: 4/12/97

Length of sighting: approximately 10 minutes

Light conditions: Sunny, excellent light

Description of birds: Two males in breeding plumage were seen with about 45 Lapland Longspurs. The birds were the size of the Lapland Longspurs with sparrow-like conical bills. The top of their heads was black. There was white above the eye and a black stripe through the eye. The throat was yellow. The nape of the neck was chestnut colored. The belly and breast were black. The back was brown with brown streaks. The black tails had more white on the sides than the Lapland Longspurs had.

The two birds were feeding together on the road. Eventually the Lapland Longspurs flew off, but the two Chestnut-collared Longspurs returned several times to the road to feed.

Distance from birds: 30 - 50 ft

Optical equipment: Bausch & Lomb 10 x 42 Elite binoculars;
Docter 8 x 30 binoculars

This is being written on 6/16/97 from brief notes made at the time of sighting and from memory.

Loren Padelford
Babs Padelford