

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 09/01/93

Smith's Longspur

20 Mar 1983

0.5 mi. east of Conesville, Muscatine Co., IA

\*T. Kent

IBL 53:55; 54:39

Record Number: 83-15

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Thomas H. Kent

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 53:55

Records Committee: IBL 54:39

VOTE: 6-III, 1-abstain

III, Observer familiar with species.

What species? Smith's Longspur How many? 8 IIILocation? 1/2 mi. e. of Conesville, Muscatine Co. IAType of habitat? Road and roadside, flat landWhen? date(s): 20 Mar 1983 time: 9:30 to 9:45Who? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St, Iowa City IA 52240others with you: Carl Bendorf, Tom Staudtothers 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.

118 longspurs with white outer tail feathers (like Vesper Sparrow), light under parts with some light buff to gray, slight streaking on flanks and finer streaks on sides of breast. Facial pattern with white triangle with dark center and white spot in center of dark. One bird with white shoulder patch. Faint double wing bars seen on one. Tik-tik note. All seem to be in winter plumage with very light buff and brown-white face pattern rather than black & white. Feeding on road.

Similar species and how eliminated: Tail, shoulder patch, face pattern, and plain buffy underparts eliminate other longspurs.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

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

Light snow & fresh 2 inch snow cover. Birds came within20 feet of car and sat on fence wire as well as road.20x scope. 8x binocs.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Several sightings in last 3 yrs.References and persons consulted before writing description: noneHow long before field notes made? while writing this form completed? 5 hrs

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