

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Smith's Longspur How many? 1
Location? About 2 miles west of Almont, IA. Clinton Co.
Type of Habitat? Harvested fields with new spread manure
When? date(s): Dec. 29, 1990 time: 3:55 PM to 3:17 PM
Who? your name and address: Brian Blewins 2003 E. 12th Street Davenport, Iowa
Others with you: Corey Blewins, Lewis Blewins
Others before or after you: None that I know of.

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

This bird was the size of a horned lark but showed the fatter proportions of Longspurs. The finch-type bill was easily recognizable as was the white outer tail feathers, but the most striking features were the black and white head striping with the large white cheek-patch, and the brilliant buff brown breast, nape, and throat. The white shoulder patch was also mentioned and approved by the other two observers. Behavior notes were quite simple. The bird was feeding with about 150 Lapland longspurs and about 12 Horned larks. It walked fast when on the ground between the lumps of dirt and flew with the rest of the spurs making their usual hopping feeding system.

Similar species; how eliminated: The bird was quickly picked out of the group of about 150 of Lapland Longspurs which were in various plumages. When this species is in $\frac{3}{4}$ breeding plumage it is easily distinguished.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NO
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.
Diffuse lighting but not bat; 15-25 meters. 7x35, 8x40 Binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: We have previously gone to extensive spring searches for breeding plumage specimens with Pete Peterson in April around Coonemarsa in Louisa County. Here, we have found numerous birds each year. Pete and I even have photographs.

References and persons consulted before writing description:
The only Reference used to reconfirm was a Peterson's Field Guide.

How long before field notes made? 15 this form completed? that night

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).