

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Lapland Longspur How many? 1

Location? Babcock Access, Coralville Res., Johnson Co., IA

Type of Habitat? mud flat

When? date(s): 1 Oct 1990, time: 5:20 to 5:21 p.m.

Who? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246

Others with you: none

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

A bird landed on the mud flat that I thought might be a horned lark or a pipit. I immediately put my 20x scope on it and saw a triangular face pattern, chestnut around the collar, white throat, and broken indistinct black bib below the throat. Underparts were otherwise white. The bird had shape consistent with a longspur. Before I could look for more detail, it flew off and was not seen again.

I noted on the way home that this is a 2nd earliest date, hence these notes.

Similar species; how eliminated: The face pattern made me think of Smith's longspur, but the chestnut color and black bib excluded this. Chestnut-colored longspur has a yellow or buff throat and more extensive black on front. The color and face pattern do not fit Horned Lark or American Pipit. Horned Larks were present on the flats and I saw pipits later at another location.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? _____
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.
late p.m. sun with light behind me. 20x scope. 50 yds (est)

Previous experience with species and similar ones: lots

References and persons consulted before writing description: NGS

How long before field notes made? 2 hrs. this form completed? same

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