

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Smith's Longspurs How many? 11

Location? Maynard Reece Wetlands, Koss Co, Iowa near Union Slough

Type of Habitat? wetlands & old bean stubble

When? date(s): April 19-99 Rita Goranson time: 1:30 to 2:30 pm
115 Lakeview Dr.
Mason City, IA 50401

Who? your name and address: _____

Others with you: Jan Walter

Others before or after you: Matt Kenne

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.

walking through stubble I flushed 6 birds, which, making ticking sounds, flew circling upward and off. I could see white outer tail feathers and buffy colored breasts. Also present on a couple were small white wing bars. I flushed another 3 + another 2. Walking to the area where some landed I flushed four again. It was a very windy day (15 MPH) so I couldn't get good views of head but each time I heard the ticking + saw the white tail feathers, the very buffy breasts and the sometimes white wing bars. These birds were sparrow size. They had short tails and were medium brown, otherwise, for coloring.

Similar species; how eliminated:

No other birds in immediate area, other than ducks, I had seen two Savannah sparrows at beginning of area and knew these were larger than Savannah's and different coloring and marks. I have seen Laplands but they don't have this rich buffy color.

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

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

sunny but windy,

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

I have seen Lapland's.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? immediate this form completed? Apr 22-1999

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