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Documentation of Chestnut-collared Longspur  
(*Calcarius ornatus*)

On 4/16/86, two days after a snowstorm accompanied by strong n.w. winds, I saw at least four Chestnut-collared longspurs in two different areas of Lake Manawa Rec. Area. About 12:30 p.m. I found a flock of 22 longspurs in the grassy-weedy area along the road to the s.e. boat dock. I was able to get within 25 ft of 3 males in breeding plumage. The rest of the flock I didn't see until it flew across the road. It was mixed because when they flew it seemed that about half had the large white patches in the tail, and about half had narrow white edging on the sides of the tail. I was never able to get any more details on the other longspurs. About 1pm I found another breeding plumaged male on the dike at the s.w. boundary of Manawa. I walked to within 15 ft of this bird and watched it for 3-4 minutes.

Description: sparrow-sized bird with short, dark conical bill. Had buffy-ochre under throat and around to side of head; black crown with white stripes, bright chestnut on back of neck, black on breast to belly, brown streaks on back; tail had large white areas on either side of small black stripe in the middle.

Optical equipment- 9x25 Nikon binoculars

Field guide used: National Geographic after sighting.

This report is being written two hours after sighting.

Note: On 4/14 ten Chestnut-collareds were seen at Dam Site 16 in Omaha, and on 4/15 twelve were seen at Dam Site 11 in Omaha. I have never seen this species east of extreme western Nebraska.