

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Lark Bunting 2. Number 1 ♂
3. Location 1 mile east of Sweet Marsh
4. Date: May 13, 1981 5. Time Bird Seen: 9:30 A.M. to 9:40 A.M.
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
- 1.) Size - about cowbird size with about same length tail
  - 2.) color - entirely black except for the very large white wing patch on each wing - the white extend around the edges of primaries also to give the bird a "black bird with white wings" look - Tip of tail had a little white also - wings looked more white than field guides show
  - 3.) bill was a heavy finch like bill almost like grosbeak - bill was grayish-blue
  - 4.) eye was dark
- Francis Moore took some very identifiable pictures
7. Description of voice, if heard: —
8. Description of behavior: feeding on dandelions at edge of gravel road - we would approach to about 35' and it would fly further down road + land (over + over)
9. Habitat - general: gravel road on east edge of Sweet Marsh  
specific: roadside ditch area
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:  
Bobolink has white back + rump + gold back of neck + not as much white on wings.
11. Distance (how measured)? closest was about 35' - by eye
12. Optical equipment: B.H.L. 7X35's
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
overcast day but bright - we were facing north - sun behind us
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
First lark bunting but I have seen many bobolinks
15. Other observers:  
Francis Moore (took photos)
16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Francis Moore
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
Did not need to consult books on this one.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? Same day
- Signature: Robert K. Myers Address: 1236 Sylvia Ave.
- Date: May 14, 1981 City, State: Wadena, Iowa, 50201