

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Lark Bunting (Calamospiza melanocorys) 2. Number 1
3. Location 1 mile East of Sweet Marsh on gravel road
4. Date: 5-13-81 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):

Bill was a bluish-gray color; head, breast, belly, back, upper tail coverts, and tail black; wing mostly black with the secondary upper-wing coverts white and a white fringing on the tertials. Legs dark brown to black color. Very hard to mistake from any other species, even male Bobolink.

This bird was a very Lucky find and I have several photographs which ~~was~~ first had to be processed then prints made from the slides I took originally and by the time all this took place it was too late to sent with this report, so they will follow shortly as substantiation of this documentation:

7. Description of voice, if heard: Not heard
8. Description of behavior: Sparrow-like hopping at side of gravel road, eating seeds of dandelions; short flight when approached but stayed in open road or field and did not try to hide.
9. Habitat - general: At side of gravel road

specific: gravel road on East side of Sweet Marsh; ^{approx. 1 mi} road bordered by grasses and many dandelions in bloom and a lot of them already in seed stage.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain: Male Bobolink seen same day; Bobolink has white and yellowish color on head and back and white scapulars not white secondary upper-wing coverts.

11. Distance (how measured)? approximately 35 feet 12. Optical equipment: 7x35mm BTL Binooculars
at closest point.

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): Sun was to my right as I faced North while sitting in car, bird sometimes on left and sometimes on right side of road at point where gravel met grass; ~~sunlight - bright overcast after brief early A.M. rain shower.~~

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: No experience with this species; a lot of experience with male Bobolink.

15. Other observers: Bob Myers

16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Bob Myers

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: No field guide needed but did look at Robbins' Birds of North America, Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds, East and Godfrey's The Birds of Canada to get an idea of the range of this species.

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 1 day.

Signature: Francis L. Moore Address: 264 Western Avenue

Date: 5/14/81 City, State: Waterloo, IA 50701