

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE. FOR UTAH BIRD RECORDS CODING ONLY.

Lat/long \_\_\_\_\_ Record type \_\_\_\_\_ Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Habitat \_\_\_\_\_ Disposition \_\_\_\_\_ Cx Nos. \_\_\_\_\_

Common Name McCown's Longspur  
 Scientific Name Calcarius mccownii  
 Obs. date Jan. 5, 1985 Time(s) 10:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.  
 Duration of obs. 5 to 10 minutes during 3 1/2 hours  
 Distance from bird 40-100 yards  
 Light conditions Excellent  
 Optical equip. Binoculars & Spotting scopes  
 Photo equip. None  
 Notes made at time of sighting X  
 Notes made later from memory \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date report prepared Jan. 6, 1985

Weather at time of this observation.

Low 50's

Prior weather and number of days since change

The previous 6 days were sunny & warm. Before that it rained for two days.

Locality

Washington fields about 3 miles S.E. of St. George, Utah.

Enter number of birds in each category.

GENDER(S)

Males 1Females 1(?)

♀ or Imms \_\_\_\_\_

Unknowns \_\_\_\_\_

AGES(S)

Adults X

Juv/Imms \_\_\_\_\_

2/3 yr birds \_\_\_\_\_

Unknowns X

PLUMAGE(S)

Breeding \_\_\_\_\_

Eclipse \_\_\_\_\_

Winter X

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Transition \_\_\_\_\_

Dark phase \_\_\_\_\_

Light ph. \_\_\_\_\_

PHOTO(S) - NO

Available \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Total number observed.

1 (maybe 2)

Description of bird: Size, colors, all field marks OBSERVED. - Unique features of this individual, if any.

Size - Sparrow sized; about 6 to 7 inches long.Coloration - upperparts were a light tannish color with a finely streaked crown. Horned larks, a more uniform gray color. Back was tan also, but had more distinct darker lines on back than did the Horned larks with which it was feeding.Underparts were creamish white with a smudgy black breast more broad than Horned larks. There were no dark streaks on side.Throat was white.There was a distinct white line over eye (more creamy colored than white).The auricular was tan-colored & was not outlined by a dark triangle.The tail feathers, at least the three or four outer ones were white on the sides. across the tail, it was black-tipped which was especially noticeable when the birds were flying.The chestnut-colored wing patch (coverts, I think) was even noticeable, though not as distinct as field guides show.The bill was light-colored (couldn't tell for sure if it was pink at our distance from bird) & stout - not pointed like Horned lark.

ATTACH ADDITIONAL NOTES, LISTS OF REFERENCES, SKETCHES FROM LIFE, PHOTOGRAPHS, ETC.

The tail was shorter than the larks on the Horned larks.

arks which were not seen. Why not?

Variations from expected field marks.

none

all field marks were observed during the 3 1/2 hours we followed the flock. No question on I.D.

none

List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

Horned Larks - Horned Larks have a facial pattern in almost all plumages & not nearly as much white in tail. The bill is more narrow & pointed & the black on breast is higher & more narrow. Plus, the tail is longer making it a slightly larger bird.

Lapland Longspur - This longspur is noticeably darker in color with much less white in tail. There are darker, more striking back stripes & the auricular is outlined with a dark almost triangle. There is also more rust coloring in the wings & dark streaks on the flanks.

Chestnut-collared Longspur - Females are similar, but due to McCown's or the ♀ was behavior of this bird. Other species seen with this one. Any interaction between birds? probably a McCown's.

Was feeding in a series of plowed sibeage fields with large flocks of Horned Larks (up to 400-500 in a single flock) & at least three Lapland Longspurs. It kept a lower profile than the Horned Larks while feeding. When the Larks flew, it flew with them. Difficult to separate it from Lapland typically, but by coloration & tail pattern it was easy.

Habitat at this location. Adjacent or near by habitat, if significant.

Plowed fields. Agricultural throughout the valley.

Describe bird's song or sounds.

I heard it give a rattle on Dec. 29 while it was flying. Not sure I heard it or Lapland on Jan. 5. But there were dry rattles given during flight.

Print reporter's name, address, phone number

MERRILL WEBB  
1063 EAST 400 NORTH  
DREM, UT. 84057

Signature Merrill Webb

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

First time (or times counting Dec. 29 & Jan. 5). Three or four for Lapland Longspur. Many times with Horned Larks.

Corroborating observers not reporting separately.

David Fischer

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature