

2-1988

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: McCowan's Longspur

Scientific Name: *Calcarius mccownii*

Date: JAN 6, 1988 Time: 9:45 AM

Length of time observed: 2 min

Number: 1 Age: ADULT (WINTER)

Sex: ♂

Location: WEST CANTON - APPROX. 1 MILE SOUTH OF GENTILE ST. ON 3200 W.

Latilong: 2

Elevation (if known): 4225

Distance to bird: 30 ft.

Light conditions: GOOD

Optical equipment: BIRD'S 10X50

Weather: LIGHT SNOW FALLING

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

SLIGHTLY SMALLER THAN A HORNED LARK - BODY SEEMED CHUNKIER WITH A SHORT TAIL. TAIL EDGE WAS BLACK WITH CENTRALS BEING BLACK (GIVING AN INVERTED "T" APPEARANCE). OVERALL ^{UPPER} BODY COLOR WAS LIGHT SANDY BROWN WITH DARKER BROWN STREAKING ON BACK. MEDIAN WING COVERTS WERE CHESTNUT COLORED. BREAST & BELLY WAS BUFFY W/ A BROAD BAND OF DARKER FEATHERS ON UPPER BREAST. EYE ^{BROW} STRIPE WAS LIGHT BUFF, CHEEK PATCH WAS SLIGHTLY DARKER TAN, BUT OVERALL HEAD EFFECT WAS ONE OF VERY LITTLE CONTRAST

Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

NONE HEARD

Behavior:

WAS W/ FLOCK OF 20+ HORNED LARKS. FEEDING & PICKING GRAVEL ON
A ROAD THAT HAD BEEN PLOWED IN SNOW

Habitat: FLAT AREAS OF SHORT GRASS AND GRAZED PASTURELAND.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

LAPLAND L.S. - THIS BIRD IS LARGER MORE STREAMLINED, DARKER, WITH VERY LITTLE WHITE
IN TAIL (NO INVERTED "T"). BREAST AND FLANKS SHOW SOME STREAKING
CHESTNUT IS IN GREATER WING COVERTS. MORE COLORFUL & CONTRASTY

CHESTNUT COLLARED L.S. - TAIL HAS MORE BLACK GIVING INVERTED "V" APPEARANCE. HAS NO
CHESTNUT IN WING COVERTS. ♂ HAVE WHITE IN COVERTS AND ON NAPE ALSO
HAVE MORE EXTENSIVE DARK IN BREAST. ♀ HAVE SLIGHT STREAKING ON BREASTS

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

WATCHED A FLOCK FOR ABOUT 4 HRS. IN 1987. TOOK PICTURES. I'm quite
familiar with the LAPLAND. HAVE NEVER SEEN CHESTNUT-COLLARED

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

MASTER'S GUIDE & NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Significance of record in this area or the state:

RARE IN STATE

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

NONE

Description from notes taken at time of sighting ___ notes made later ___ from memory X

Observer: CRAIG KNEEDY

Signature:

Address: 314 S. 4500 W.

WEST POINT, Utah 84015

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Date prepared:

Jan 7, 1988

Return this form to:

Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120