

VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF U.S. BIRD RECORD

1. Species: Chestnut-collared Longspur | Calcarius ornatus 2. Number: 1
 (Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

3. Location: sparse plains between Rosckville and Grafton

4. Date(s): 10/10/74 5. Time bird seen: 6:45 to 7 pm

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern. (Describe in great detail all of the plumage including beak and feet coloration in addition to the diagnostic characteristics; however, include only what actually was seen in the field.)

First seen with a House Finch perched on top of a cholla, it was of comparable size and shape but with a more compact and heavier body. The head was large with respect to the bill which was sparrow-like as opposed to the heavy finch bill. The color pattern was striking and the reason I noticed either bird. It was as eye-catching as seeing a White-breasted Nuthatch fly from a Yellow Pine. The white throat and mask extended from well below the lower mandible to well above the eye, contrasting markedly with the dark crown, which wasn't conspicuously black but quite dark, and with the dark "streaking" of the breast and belly. G.M. Fairfield in Bent's Life His-

7. Description of voice, if heard: The only sound was that of the House Finch as the two took flight

8. Description of behavior: Perched on top of cholla with House Finch, they flew to serviceberry where the Longspur perched and finch disappeared

9. Habitat-general: behind the shrub. It seemed to like being up high
 specific: Upper Sonoran Desert: A broad, flat plain much of which

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain:
McCown's Longspur: Fall adult male with dark rectal line, extensive white below crescentic chest patch, and gray hind neck. I find little information

11. Distance (how measured?): 100ft. with Bushnell spotting scope with 20-45x

12. Optical equipment: zoom lens set at 25x and at 200 ft with 45x. In flight

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer): with naked eye
The sun was low and behind me, casting good light on bird.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
none with either Longspur, much with Vesper Sparrow

15. What made you think this species was unusual or rare? Listed in Woodbury's annotated checklist as a hypothetical for Utah on the basis of wintering birds

16. Other observers: in northern Ariz.. Not listed in Wauer's Birds of Zion
none

17. Did others agree with your identification?
N/A

18. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
none

19. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation: Bent's Life History of N.A. Cardinals, Grosbeaks, etc. gave helpful accounts of plumage in both adult and juvenile. Bailey's Handbook of Birds of the Western U.S. also gave good accounts of plumage.

20. ~~If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used.~~
No, I returned the next morning and evening with Jerome Giffords 35mm and Street Address: same lens but found nothing

Signature: _____
 Date Prepared: 10/11/74 City and State: Springdale, Utah 84767
Kenneth J. Kertell (Park Ranger-naturalist), Zion N.P.
 (USE THE REVERSE, OR ADDITIONAL PAGES, IF NECESSARY)

(6) Series... describes the juvenal undersides as follows, "...pale buff on breast more or less thickly streaked and spotted with dusky-black..." and Bailey in Handbook of Birds of the Western United States, says that the underparts are dull buff streaked. If this was indeed a juvenile bird Fairfield further states, in agreement with my findings, that the throat is plain white and Bailey notes that the superciliary is indistinct in the juvenile. I noticed no distinct superciliary line and no chestnut color on the nape. With respect to the chestnut nape both authors note that in the juvenile it is almost entirely obscured by brownish or buffy feather edgings. Above the nape was a small, but distinct, spot of white which did not blend with the white of face and throat. The pattern of the nape and remaining upper parts were quite sparrow-like with the back being roughly striped or streaked with buff and some white feather edgings. The wings were also buff brown with finer streaking. The tail was largely obscured while the bird perched on the cholla. When it flew it could have been a Vesper Sparrow but the tail sides revealed much more white, with a thin dark area in the center. The white was evident to the end of the tail. I don't recall the color of the bill

(8) in this area of little vegetation

(9) was vegetated by nothing but sparse weeds. Soil crusted. Some cholla, sand-sage, bigsage and one or two serviceberry. Bordering on a shallow wash with an intermittent stream which was running at the time. Greatly spaced cottonwoods along the wash. Fairfield states that after breeding the species "... then entirely abandons the grassy breeding grounds, and was found in adjacent ditches, dried-up sloughs, and similar low-lying, rough ground (though rarely stubble or plowed land)"

(10) on the fall juvenile but what I find indicates that there is not the pure throat and facial white of the Chestnut. Also, the tail has a white terminal band. Phillips, et.al. Birds of Ariz. report it as a rare winter resident and since 1922 only from eastern counties. The Chestnut in fall occurs in small numbers more or less regularly, usually on open land near water, nearly statewide west to the Colorado River.

Vesper Sparrow: lacks white on throat and face

(19) Phillips et.al. The Birds of Ariz. gave information on wintering range and use of only tail in identification of strictly winter birds. This bird had apparently not molted into the apparently much drabber facial pattern of winter. Petersons A Field Guide to Western Birds
Robbins, et.al. Birds of N.A.