

Species: Chestnut-collared Longspur
(Vernacular name)

Calcarius ornatus
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): January 17, 1982 Time Bird Seen: 2:20 PM to 2:20 PM

Locality: Antelope Island Causeway, 1/3 of way across from mountain
from the Davis station
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 80x 9mm 2x35 binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Male Plumage: 3/4 - 1/2 adult breeding pl

Light conditions: Good some high cloud cover

Distance from bird, and how measured: 20-30 ft, sometimes 40-50 feet

Describe the bird's overall behavior:
Bird was foraging in weed patch next to road and rocky beach. Bird was in flock of horned larks (~60), Snow buntings (~5) and Lapland longspurs (~6). Lapland longspurs were all in winter plumage. The flock stayed on ground until approaching vehicle stirred them up into flight. After brief circling, flock then settled back down in same area to feed.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:
Short, about 1 foot high, dead grasses, open between clumps. Snow cover of 1-2" between grasses Rocky beach free of snow. Typical causeway habitat

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):
Sherwood Cousins 1350 25th Ave Salt Lake City Utah
phone: 31-7122

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

Bird size of horned lark and Lapland longspur. Bill was sharp, moderately small, ^{and} finch like. Bill and legs grayish-dark. Most conspicuous field marks were (1) bright chestnut brown colored nape of neck (2) Black on ventral surface from ~~the~~ upper breast to lower belly (when bird faced us black was only color seen on breast and abdomen except for some light gray/whitish areas on extreme sides of breast). In comparison winter lapland longspur has gray-black smudge areas down to central part of breast only. (3) Black cap, with gray-white center line down middle of cap. Rest of cap jet black. Cap black extended down to chestnut nape of neck, that is entire head was black, including back of head. (4) Finches white with dark eye and patch of ^{buffiness} buffiness between eye and bill and black ^{whisker} lines on lower face/neck also visible. Tail not seen well enough to determine white and black pattern. Back light brown-gray streaked with black. Bird looked like breeding male ~~great~~ black ~~not~~ areas not totally black, some areas of gray/white as described above in ^{above in} ~~not b.f.~~

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

None

feather tips in ~~holding~~ of black by ~~underneath~~

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Lapland longspur eliminated, as black on chest went all the way to the bottom ^{of} abdomen. Face pattern totally unlike ~~that~~ lapland adult male, as bird had white face with buffy area near bill and eye and distinct black eye line ~~through~~ from eye to neck. Other longspurs eliminated as they do not have chestnut collar on neck.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Have seen breeding chestnut collared longspurs in Montana recently, as well as wintering ^{lapland} longspurs in Utah and the midwest.

This report was written from notes made during ___ after ___ observation; from memory

NAME (print): Mark Loppert

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Signature: Mark F. Loppert

Return to:

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