

24 April, 1999

Harold H. Lebo
R. D. 1, Box 257
Birdsboro, PA 19508

Dear Harold,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Chestnut-collared Longspur you saw in Robesonia on 15 February, 1997. After careful review we regret that we are unable to accept this record. The committee felt that the description raised several questions and did not rule out the possibility of one of the other longspurs (e. g., the tail description was a problem). Another concern was the "intermediate breeding summer plumage" in the middle of February. This does not mean of course that the bird was not a Chestnut-collared Longspur, merely that the details did not allow for a definite determination. The committee decided to err on the side of caution for a first state record.

We hope that this does not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rare birds you find in the future. Please be encouraged to send as much detail as possible when submitting a report.

Sincerely,

For the Committee,
Roy A. Ickes, Chairperson

Record # 845-01-1997

845-01-1997

Harold H. Lebo
R. D. 1 Box 257
Birdsboro, PA 19508
Telephone: (610) 582-3972

REPORT OF CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR SIGHTING

DATE: February 15, 1997

LOCATION: Intersection of Strickler Road and Church Road, north of Robesonia, PA

HABITAT: Rolling hills that had been planted in corn-alfalfa-wheat. The Chestnut-collared Longspur was feeding on freshly matured field with a flock of Horned Larks.

WEATHER: Clear - sunshine

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

BINOCULARS: Swift 8.5 x 44

DISTANCE: 30 to 40 ft (sitting in auto)

DESCRIPTION:

While sorting through a flock of 100+ Horned Larks for Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings, I noticed a bird with bright yellow facial pattern which was much different from the Horned Larks. This bird was an inch or two smaller than the Horned Larks and the shape of a Longspur. Upon full concentration on this bird, I observed a bright yellow facial pattern from below eye to throat and extending back beyond black eye, a "C" shaped black pattern center of head but posterior to eye and bordering the light brown collar of posterior neck. The bird had a light brown mantle (collar) extending posterior base of neck to almost level of eye. The complete

Report: Harold H. Lebo

Page 2

crown a medium gray. The chest a dark buff brown and throat a whitish cast; the lower belly a dark buff color. Tail was black with lateral white wedge-shaped edging and end of tail notched. Undertail coverts white. The back very dark, almost black, with buff streaking. Bill color was grayish and pointed shape Leg color dark. The bird fed among the horned larks and stayed with the flock upon flight. I observed the bird for 3-5 minutes and did not photograph bird same day as I was unable to relocate the bird after leaving with the flock of Horned Larks.

I believe the described bird was male intermediate breeding summer plumage Chestnut-collared Longspur. Habitat where bird was found is low rolling hills in middle of large farming area. Size and shape of bird was similar to Lapland Longspurs. I am very familiar with the birds of the Longspur family and have seen breeding Chestnut-collared Longspurs at Brandon, Manitoba, 1987 and breeding Lapland Longspurs on Attu Island, AK, the Pribolof Island, AK, and Nome AK, breeding McCowns Longspurs in Colorado, breeding Smith Longspurs north of Anchorage, AK. With my experience with the Longspur family I believe the bird seen 2/15/97 to be a Chestnut-collared Longspur.

Also seen with flock of the Horned Larks in same area were two Lapland Longspur, 1 Snow bunting.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*)

Date of Sighting: 15 February 1997 to 15 February 1997

Location: ROBESONIA

County: BERKS

Observer(s): Harold Lebo

Date of Submission: 1997

Submitted by: Harold Lebo

Written Description: YES

Photo: NO

Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas							X	
P. Schwalbe							X	
K. Parkes							X	
R. Ickes				X				
P. Hess			X					
J. McWilliams				X				
T. Floyd				X				
TOTALS			1	3			3	
DECISION				X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

4-19-99