

of the habitat that the upper edge of its body melts into the background. There stands the bird, its head and underparts clear enough, but so like the habitat is the back that there is no contour line.

Nearly every birder of the Tulsa area had a look at the rare visitor during its stay. On 26 August Wesley Isaacs and his son Kevin drove from Oklahoma City to see it; R. J. Farris of Tulsa photographed it; and J. S. Tomer took more photos.

On 28 August the following Tulsans saw it: Tomer, J. Sisler, R. G. Jennings, Terri Bruner, Elwyn Aud, Louise Rogers, Dorothy Norris, K. Ashley, Juanita Martin, M. Overby, Joan Sullens, J. Dickerson, J. Tindle, Aline Romero, W. F. Whaling, and Roberta Whaling. Whaling took photographs. H. W. Goard and Dotty M. Goard of Bartlesville drove over to see it.

From 28 August on, the plover was observed repeatedly: on 29 August by K. Hayes, Elizabeth Hayes, R. J. Sherry, W. F. Whaling, and Roberta Whaling; on 31 August by Dotty M. Goard, Ella Delap, Phyllis Chapman, R. Hunter, Marjorie Dearmont, Alice Hensey, N. J. Thayer, Margaret Thayer, and J. Sisler; on 3 September by Eleanor Sieg and Elizabeth Hayes; on 4 September by R. G. Jennings and Terri Bruner; on 12 September by Lois Rodgers and Ruth Kern; on 29 September by J. C. Hoffman; on 31 August by Dotty M. Goard and Ella Delap. I am not sure of the last date on which it was seen, but J. S. Tomer photographed it on 4 October and J. C. Hoffman saw it on 9 October.

Charadrius wilsonia is a New World species that lives along ocean coasts. On the Atlantic side it breeds from New Jersey southward through the West Indies to northern South America and on the Pacific side from central Baja California to Colombia and Peru; it winters from South Carolina, Louisiana, southeastern Texas, central Baja California and central Sonora southward to central eastern Brazil and Peru (AOU Check-list, 1957, p. 169). According to the AOU Check-list (1957, p. 170) the species is "accidental in Ohio (Lucas County)."

ROUTE 2, BOX 908, FORT GIBSON, OKLAHOMA 74434, 20 SEPTEMBER 1982.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR IN BREEDING PLUMAGE IN OKLAHOMA IN DECEMBER

BY JOHN S. TOMER

While participating in the Tulsa Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count on 20 December 1981 (weather bright and mild), Jerry Sisler and I found a flock of eight Smith's Longspurs (*Calcarius pictus*) in northern Tulsa County, northeastern Oklahoma. We had made a point of visiting the open prairie of that part of the county, knowing that longspurs were likely to be there. As we were driving alongside a big pasture 5 miles east of Sperry, Sisler noticed the little flock as it flew, longspur fashion, not far above the ground and alighted in the grass. They were a long way from the road. Stopping the car, we got out and started walking toward the place at which they had landed.

As we approached them, the longspurs flew up and toward us, landing

within 100 feet of where we were standing. By this time we felt sure they were Smith's from the characteristic clicking callnote and the white wing-patch that we saw occasionally as they circled overhead and dove into the grass. We walked slowly into the area where they landed. When we saw the first bird on the ground we were almost in the middle of the flock. They were quite visible since there were many grassless spots in this area. As I watched with binocular, I saw two or three birds that were in the usual buffy winter plumage and that had the noticeable white wing-patch. I was only about 30 feet from them.

I noticed particularly one bird that was facing me. The clear orange-buff of its breast was noticeable. As it turned, giving me a look at its profile, I was amazed to see the contrasting black-and-white head pattern of a male in full breeding plumage. I called excitedly to Sisler, pointing to where the bird was. He looked and was immediately impressed by the bird's striking head pattern. We both were able to study it carefully and recognized it as an extraordinary treat, not having seen this plumage before.

Smith's Longspur is present in winter on central Oklahoma's plains and prairies. It arrives about the last week in October, is present all winter, and has left by the second week in April (Sutton, 1974, A check-list of Oklahoma



MALE SMITH'S LONGSPUR IN BREEDING PLUMAGE

A photograph – taken by John S. Tomer at the University of Edmonton's Cameron Library in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada – of the hand-colored lithograph by William Swainson, the British ornithologist and bird artist. The picture illustrated Swainson's original description of "Emberiza (Plectrophanes) picta . . . Painted Bunting" in John Richardson's four-volume "Fauna Boreali-Americana" (1831, Vol. 2, p. 250, pl. 49). Swainson named and described several other American bird species new to science in the Richardson opus. The name Smith's was bestowed by Audubon in honor of Gideon B. Smith, a physician of Baltimore, Maryland.

birds, p. 48). Normally the molt out of breeding plumage is complete before it arrives in the fall and the prebasic molt takes place north of Oklahoma as it migrates toward its nesting ground in the far north. None of the 34 Oklahoma specimens (three from Tulsa County) in the University of Oklahoma collection taken between 19 November and 20 March show signs of either molt; nor do three specimens from the Tulsa area (two in the U.S. National Museum, one in the University of Tulsa collection) taken between 30 November and 4 December show any sign of molt. How then can we account for the occurrence of this one aberrant male bird with seven others all apparently in regular winter plumage? Was it a result of a late prealternate molt (approximately 3 months late), or was it an early prebasic molt (approximately 4 months early)? I have not found in the literature mention of this sort of irregularity.

Sisler and I separately returned to the area where this bird was seen four times in the weeks following our observation. I did not find the longspurs again. Sisler found longspurs on one trip but could not get close enough to see them on the ground.

5911 EAST 46th STREET, TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74135, 15 AUGUST 1982

GENERAL NOTES

Baikal Teal in Major County, Oklahoma. — From 1345 to 1405 on 12 March 1981 (sky slightly overcast; source of light behind and to right of us), Mrs. Dorothy McIlroy of Ithaca, New York, and I observed an adult male Baikal Teal (*Anas formosa*) on the southeast borrowpit pond of the Law Sandpit just east of the Cimarron River bridge (on Highways 8 and 62) between Orienta and Cleo Springs, Major County, northwestern Oklahoma. We observed it through a 30 x Balscope and 10 x 40 binocular. It was with a flock of Ring-necked Ducks (*Aythya collaris*), Redheads (*A. americana*), and American Wigeons (*Anas americana*), a few Gadwalls (*A. strepera*), six Pintails (*A. acuta*), and two Green-winged Teal (*A. crecca*). We observed it again from 1608 to 1725, during which period the sky was clear and full sunlight that was behind us fell squarely on the bird.

Description: Teal-sized duck (compared directly with Green-winged Teal), riding high in water with tail held clear of water like American Wigeon. Head held so close to body that neck not usually distinguishable, rather like that of Green-winged Teal in repose. Head peaked but not crested. Bill slate gray with lighter sheen. Crown and nape black with green iridescence; creamy white line over each eye meeting on occiput; face tawny-buff with dark vertical bar from eye down across cheek to lower throat; widening black crescent with brilliant metallic green sheen extending posteriorly from eye, framing or cupping the tawny face forward of it; creamy white line down lateral posterior part of neck extending forward but still behind lower part of blackish facial crescent described above; chest tawny pink with darker spots; white vertical bar posterior to chest, positioned like white bar on chest of North American race of Green-winged Teal; sides and flanks gray to waterline; back brownish with three neatly placed long, thin, pointed scapular feathers, creamy white posteriorly, dark anteriorly, extending posteriorly and downward across gray sides, black posteriorly separated from gray flanks by sharp white bar, reminiscent of the white flank patch on American Wigeon or Blue-winged Teal but much more narrow; wings entire, i.e., full folded primaries seen on both left and right sides, brownish like back.

No interaction noted with other ducks but bird seemed to prefer company of Pintails and Green-winged Teal. Additional details noted during second