

4 ³/₂₀ mi. E and 4 ¹/₁₀ mi. S Lawrence (P.O.), Douglas Co., Kansas

Jan 22, 1961

James R + I collected 7 Calcarius lapponicus from the same place visited yesterday. ^(11:00 AM - 1:00 P.M.) The same number of birds were in the area and were following the same flight and feeding techniques as of yesterday. There were about 8 main flocks which separated and recombined to make the 3,000 birds. All the birds were taken from the kafir corn field. Groups of birds would fly to the area and after circling once or twice either alight or fly beyond. The final settling on the group was abrupt after the inspection from the air in their circular flight. Sometimes the entire group would compact and fly rapidly ^{just above the ground} across the field in a whirling movement. The groups were as small as 2 or 3 to an average of about 50 birds to large group of 2,000 which took several seconds to pass by. On 4 occasions, when a small group ⁽²⁰⁻³⁰⁾ of birds flew by one bird would leave the flock and fly straight to us and inspect from overhead as they were wont to do in the arctic. Other small groups would also fly directly overhead as if curious of our presence. The call of the longspur is a rattling mechanical noise in contrast to the high pitched peep by the horned lark. I did not see evidence of the horned lark flying with the longspurs except momentarily when the two groups would pass by each other. The horned larks lit in the road and open plowed or short stubble fields but never in the kafir field. This field of corn had been cut at about 2 ¹/₂ high and the upper part of the corn, the small seeds, had been allowed to fall to the ground where it remained for bird feed. The habits of these birds of flying slowly overhead makes them an easy target. It was noticed that the lower to the ground these birds fly the more compact the grouping which bears out the idea that the nearer to danger a flock of birds becomes, the more compact they become in flight. Measurements of birds collected this morning at 11:00 A.M. or:

610122-1	<u>Calcarius lapponicus</u>	Length 166 mm; wt. 31 gms. ♂
610122-2	" "	" 164 " 30 " ♂
610122-3	" "	" 168 " 32.5 " ♀ ovary 2 mm.
610122-4	" "	" 168 " 32.5 " ♂
610122-5	" "	" 164 " 29.5 " ♂
610122-6	" "	" 160 " 26. " ovary 1 mm.
610122-7	" "	" 171 " 32.5 " ♀ ovary 1 ³ / ₄ mm
610122-8	<u>Eremophila alpestris</u> ♀	" 173 " 36 " largest egg ⁸ / ₁₀ mm

Side v. C.S.