

tomato field at the north end of Lake Calumet, Cook County, that they thought may be a female Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*). I went there that afternoon with Philip but we could not find the bird. The next morning, we returned again with Mandel and Williamson. This time we were able to find the longspur, which had been joined by a sizable flock (40 or more birds) of Lapland Longspurs (*C. lapponicus*).

The bird was secretive and difficult to see, but it also tended not to fly away as readily as did the other longspurs and we were able to get several excellent views through telescopes.

The female Chestnut-collared Longspur was slightly, though noticeably smaller than the Lapland Longspurs. This was most obvious when it was flying with the flock of laplands, but when the two species were sitting side by side, the difference was also apparent.

The bird was probably in basic plumage and appeared to be in fresh molt, or at least not substantially worn. Its overall upper parts were tannish to gray-brown and the underparts nearly white. The crown was buffy with sharp, short black streaks. The streaking was most prominent near the middle of the crown and was very fine at the forehead and nape. The more or less uniformly streaked crown cleanly set off the face which was distinctly pale yellow. There was a hint of a blackish-brown streak running back from the eye and a grayish brown malar streak, but no other dark face markings. Occasionally, the eye appeared to be encircled by a white orbital ring, but this was thin and often not visible. The bill was fairly small, similar in size to a Savannah Sparrow's, although a bit shorter, or to a Lapland Longspur's bill. The bill was partially pale pink or straw colored; however, most of the culmen, the tip, and a bit of the underside of the lower jaw were blackish.

The back was similar in color and pattern to the crown. It was predominantly grayish buff, with dark brown feather centers that formed short, arrowhead streaks across the back. The streaks were largest near the scapulars and quite fine on the lower back. The back feathers seemed to be edged with grayish white. This occasionally gave a scaly appearance, but mostly just made the bird look pale and grayish. The rump and uppertail coverts were grayish white and had little of the brown tone.

The wings were mostly the same buffy color but had several distinctive marks. The greater coverts were plain gray with a thin shaft streak that widened to a lanceolate streak near the tip. The tips of the greater coverts were white and broadly pointed. This produced a thin but distinct zigzag wing bar. The secondaries and tertials were broadly edged with pale buffy gray. I could not make out any shoulder or wrist marks.

The underparts were mostly uniform grayish white with a few thin gray streaks on the flanks and sides of the upper chest. There was no black on the belly or throat, but perhaps a hint of gray mottling on the upper chest.

The folded tail showed a bit of white at the base, but

was mostly black. When in flight, the white sides of the tail were prominent at the base, but thin at the tip. In the few views I had of the bird flying, I could not clearly see that the black center of the tail was "triangular," but the white outer tail feathers did not form the same white edge to the tail as seen on the Lapland Longspurs. The tail was about the same length, relative to the body, as was the Lapland's, so the overall shape of the Chestnut-collared Longspur in flight was about the same as that of the Lapland.

The most distinctive feature of this bird, and the one I feel most confident about in the identification, was its call. This bird gave the typical "kittle" call that is unique to Chestnut-collared Longspurs. I heard this call first when the bird was alone and had jumped up to fly a short distance away. This time, and the second time it flew and called, it gave single "kittle" calls, not doubling the call as they often do. The call was not dry and rattling as a Lapland's call is but had a much gentler quality like a spoken word. I have had a great deal of experience with this call in California and Arizona and believe it is unmistakable.

Mlodinow listed the species as being "hypothetical" in the Chicago area with three "unverified" spring records spanning the dates of 18 - 25 April (1984, Chicago Area Birds). Bohlen said there are three recent "properly documented" sightings and listed the species as a very rare migrant in the state (1989, The Birds of Illinois). In addition, a recent winter sighting was documented for the state 10 February 1991 in La Salle County (IB&B 7:75). The species has been recorded in every surrounding state except Kentucky and Indiana according to DeSante and Pyle (1986, Distributional Checklist of North American Birds, Vol 1.). This sighting might be the first verified record by a description and multiple observers for the Chicago area.

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Black Legged Kittiwake at Waukegan Beach, Lake Co.  
\* 3 June 1993 -- Jim Neal