

LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Smith's Longspur - *Calcarius pictus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
7 + 48 longspur sp likely this species.
3. Parish:
Bossier
4. Specific Locality:
Arkansas Line Rd. 32.980576,-93.791455
5. Date(s) when observed: January 9, 2026
6. Time(s) of day when observed: Approximately 12:15
7. Reporting observer: Steven Glover
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
N/A
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
N/A
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Sun overhead, light pretty good
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss Victory 10x42
12. Distance to bird(s): Possibly 100 yards on initial observation but a bit closer on subsequent observation.
13. Duration of observation: Total of perhaps 1-2 minutes
14. Habitat: In flight on both occasions
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): In flight. Initially observed flyover over the coordinates cited above. First detected by call as I was photographing the Tundra Swan. It took a second to dawn on me that I was hearing

longspurs, but once it sank in, I immediately thought they sounded like Smith's. I was unsure of the status of the species in Louisiana and wouldn't have been comfortable with identifying them by call alone, so I continued north in hopes of detecting them again. Fortunately, I found them flying around not too far up the road. They never landed.

16. Description (include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species, body bulk, shape, proportions, bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species):

Small, sparrow sized birds noted in transit over open fields and then seen later seen wheeling in typical longspur fashion. I wasn't able to get looks at all of the birds in the flock with such limited views but on one pass, I was able to see at least 7 birds that were extensively orangish below and had a bright white bar in the coverts. No other longspurs can look so orange below or have such a prominent wingbar, let alone both features, so I am confident identifying them as Smith's. Twice in California I saw individual vagrants in mixed flocks of longspurs, but each flock I have seen in Texas and Oklahoma has appeared to be entirely composed of Smith's, and thus I suspect all 55 birds were this species.

17. Voice: Birds were giving typical longspur rattles in flight. I can't quite explain why Smith's calls sound different to me than other longspurs, but to my ear the individual rattles sound a little sharper and more staccato. I am not sure that I would be comfortable using only calls to make the identification on out-of-range birds but I have noticed the difference each time I have heard them.

18. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

I don't believe any of the other longspur species can be so orange below or have such a prominent wingbar.

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

N/A

20. Previous experience with this species: I have seen this species on 11 occasions in California, Oklahoma and, mostly, Texas. On 9 occasions I was able to hear flight calls.

21. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

N/a

22. Identification aids used when?

None used

23. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain:

Yes

24. Date report completed:

1/18/2026

25. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?

Yes

26. If yes, may we include your name with the report?

Yes