

Second in Fuertes print series

On the facing page is the second in our series of much enlarged reprints of paintings originally published in *Bird-Lore*, almost seventy years ago. With its publication we have now shown the two paintings that depict the four species of longspurs found in North America.

The original text by Frank M. Chapman is reprinted in its entirety. The reader is further referred to the Chapman text in *American Birds*, Vol. 33, No. 5, September, 1979, p. 732, which has information pertinent to the species opposite, on p. 733.

Another Fuertes print will appear in the January, 1980 issue of *American Birds*.

Notes on the plumage of North American longspurs

by Frank M. Chapman

McCown's Longspur (*Rhynchophanes mccownii*, *Figs. 1-3).

McCown's Longspur has the central pair of tail-feathers without white; all the rest are white, and all but the outer pair are conspicuously tipped with black. The outer pair is sometimes wholly white, but usually has a small brownish shaft-streak near the tip. The juvenal plumage resembles that of the Chestnut-collared Longspur, the breast being buffy streaked with blackish, the back having the same ringed appearance as in that species. In first winter plumage (Fig. 3) the black of the breast and crown is masked by the grayish and brown tips of the feathers. In the adult at this season the black breast-patch is apparently more exposed. Breeding-plumage is evidently acquired, largely, if not entirely, by wear, which unveils the black of breast and head, and in much-worn mid-summer specimens changes the lower breast and sides to gray.

The female (Fig. 2) undergoes no marked seasonal changes in plumage. Adult and juvenal are apparently alike in winter, and differ from adults in summer only in being browner.

*More recently *Calcarius mccownii*

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*, Figs. 4-6).

This is not a common bird in collections, and the small number of specimens in the American Museum do not permit of a description of its plumage changes. At all seasons, however, it may be known by its buffy-ochraceous underparts, without black markings. Apparently the juvenal male is to be distinguished from the adult male in winter by having the lesser wing-coverts brownish, instead of black, conspicuously bordered with white, and this difference appears to persist to the first nuptial plumage, a breeding bird in the American Museum agreeing with the adult male (Fig. 4) in every respect except in regards the wing-coverts, which resemble those of the young male (juvenal) in winter.

The adult female has the lesser wing-coverts black, the median wing-coverts being broadly tipped with white, but in juvenal females (Fig. 6, labeled only "female") these coverts are brownish and the white is not conspicuous.

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McCown's Longspur
Rhynchophanes mccownii
ad. ♂ summer
ad. ♀
♂ winter

Smith's Longspur
Calcarius pictus
ad. ♂ summer
ad. ♂ winter
♀



Luis Agassiz Cuertes.