

SMITH'S LONGSPUR IN OHIO

On April 18, 1949, G. Ronald Austing, Worth Randle, and I collected 4 Smith's Longspurs (*Calcarius pictus*) from a flock of about 25 longspurs at the Oxford airport, Butler County, Ohio, about 30 miles north of Cincinnati. The flock from which the 4 individuals were collected consisted of about 25 birds, some of which may have been Lapland Longspurs (*Calcarius lapponicus*) since it was not possible positively to identify each bird.

The flock was first seen April 9, 1949, by Austing, Victor Sloane, and me. The birds were wild and at that time were identified only as longspurs. Every effort was made to collect specimens since Lapland Longspurs are very rare in Southern Ohio (there being only 3 records: one collected during the winter of 1869-70 by Dury; one December 11, 1877; and 4 seen December 15, 1946 by Victor Sloane and me). On April 16, Austing, Randle, and I again attempted to collect specimens but with no success. At this time the unstreaked ochraceous-buff breasts of some of the birds were first noticed and these birds were tentatively identified as Smith's Longspurs. On April 18, Austing, Randle, and I again located the flock. Since the birds were reluctant to fly in the face of a 25 to 30 mile per hour wind accompanied by sleet and snow we were able to come within range.

Four specimens, all males, were collected; 3 are in the collection of the Department of Zoology, University of Cincinnati and one in the Ohio State Museum at Columbus. The specimens all show the buff breast first noticed in the field, being in nearly full breeding plumage.

Smith's Longspur has been definitely recorded in Ohio only once previously: On January 29, 1888, when Clark P. Streater collected 2 specimens from a large flock which were feeding on ragweed near Garrettsville, Portage County, Ohio (see *Ornithologist and Oologist*, 1888, 13: 95; and *Wilson Bull.*, 1904, 16: 85). Where these specimens are I do not know. They are not in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History nor in the Ohio State Museum at Columbus. Streater's record was inadvertently omitted by both Lynds Jones and William Dawson from their publications on Ohio birds.—EMERSON KEMSIES AND G. RONALD AUSTING, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.

INJURY FEIGNING BY WILLOW PTARMIGAN

During the summer of 1941, at Churchill, Manitoba, I frequently encountered broods of young Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*) with their parents on the tundra. The excited calls of the parents, or the "broken wing" act if the observer happened to be close, usually indicated that young were concealed somewhere nearby. When the family group was taken by surprise and the parents exhibited this type of behavior, the chicks crouched in the grass or took cover under the nearest object. Whenever broods were encountered, a search for the chicks was made so that they might be banded. The parents, with the female leading and showing the most anxiety, attempted to draw attention away from the chicks, by feigning injury until the searchers had found them. When discovered, the chicks scampered or flew off in several directions, protected by a barrage of flying attacks on the prospective bird bander by one or both parents. Seldom did the adult bird actually strike, but the confusion that accompanied its attack and the scattering of the chicks was so complete that by the time one could collect his wits and stop ducking, the chicks had disappeared from view and were in safe hiding at some distance from the spot. Chicks became such strong fliers after being out of the nest for about a week that once they had flushed, tracking them down was nearly impossible. Even chicks a few days old could fly several yards and then disappear in the tundra growth. To the best of the writer's knowledge injury feigning by this species has not been previously reported.—OSCAR HAWKSLEY, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.