Smith's Longspur (Calcarius pictus) (1)

- Reported Nov 09, 2014 14:05 by Alan Trautmann

- Nahant--East Point Sanctuary, Essex, Massachusetts

- Map: <http://maps.google.com/?ie=UTF8&t=p&z=13&q=42.4191718,-70.906384&ll=42.4191718,-70.906384>

- Checklist: <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S20493894>

- Comments: "Rare. Seen in open field (Lodge Park) flying in and out of the longish grass but landed in mown grass

three or four times.  Tannish yellow in flight with distinct white on tail and a two note flight call.  Sent photos to Ryan Schain who corrected my original ID from a LALO to a Smith's. From his email: "Smith's was my first impression and i sent it to a few others (Jeremiah Trimble and Marshall Iliff who both agreed). Here is what Marshall said: "overall buffy, narrow streaking, face pattern good, and especially white lesser coverts."

---------- Forwarded message ----------

From: "Alan Trautmann" <[aptrautmann@gmail.com](mailto:aptrautmann@gmail.com)>

Date: Nov 10, 2014 6:26 PM

Subject: Re: feel free

To: "Ryan Schain" <[ryanschain@gmail.com](mailto:ryanschain@gmail.com)>

Cc:

East Point Sanctuary, in the open field with the gravel path going around it.  I guess that's really Lodge Park or something like that.  It would fly in and out of the longer grass but three or four times landed in the mown part.  It wasn't ever in an ideal spot for pictures.  Wish I could have done better.

Are you thinking it might not be a Lapland Longspur after all?

---------- Forwarded message ----------

From: **Alan Trautmann**

Date: Mon, Nov 10, 2014 at 6:14 PM

Subject: Longspur photos

To: Ryan Schain <[ryanschain@gmail.com](mailto:ryanschain@gmail.com)>

Hi Ryan,

Thanks for taking the time to help with this ID.  The picture quality is lousy but these were the best I could do.  Also, it's flight call seemed to have two syllables; the first seemed more distinct, maybe slightly higher pitched and longer than the second.  If that helps.

All the best,

Alan