

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES

12. Lark Bunting



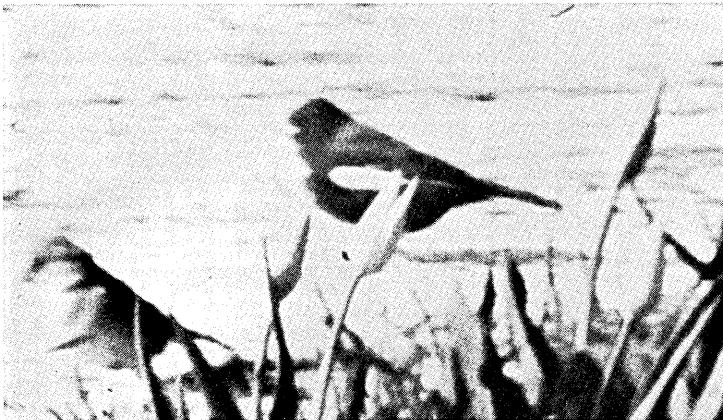
Photograph by Edwin J. Daly
Short Beach, Nassau Co., 10 Sept. 1966

The Lark Bunting, *Calamospiza melanocorys*, breeds from the prairies of southern Alberta, southern Saskatchewan, and southwestern Manitoba south through the Great Plains; and locally west of the plains in Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado. Its eastern limit extends from southwestern Manitoba, south central North Dakota, southwestern Minnesota (irregularly), central Kansas, and western Oklahoma, south to the Texas panhandle. It winters from southern California, southern Nevada, central Arizona, southern New Mexico, and central Texas to central Mexico (A.O.U. Check-list, 1957:585). For approximately the last decade the species has been undergoing a marked increase in numbers and an eastward range expansion, particularly in the northern Great Plains (Aud. Field Notes for those years).

The Lark Bunting has been recorded ten times in New York State:

- 1) A bird collected by Evan M. Evans at Montauk Point, Suffolk Co., 4 September 1888 (Evans, *Auk*, 6(2):192, April, 1889) is No. 65941 in the AMNH collection.

- 2) A bird collected at Miller's Place, Suffolk Co., 11 September 1896 by Arthur H. Helme (Eaton, *Birds of New York*, Part 2, p. 336, The Univ. of the State of New York, Albany) is in the collection of Harold H. Bailey (Bull, *Birds of the New York Area*, Harper & Row, N.Y., 1964:442).
- 3) A bird seen at Wainscott, Suffolk Co., 27 November 1937 by John T. Helmuth (Bull, *op. cit.*).
- 4) A specimen collected at Easthampton, Suffolk Co., 31 August 1939 by John T. Helmuth, but no longer extant (Bull, *op. cit.*).
- 5) An adult female seen at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Kings Co., 6 June 1959 by Geoffrey Carleton, Richard E. Harrison, John Mayer, John Bull, *et al.* (Bull, *op. cit.*).
- 6) A bird seen at Cortland, Cortland Co., 27 February 1960 by W. Clemens (*Kingbird*, 10(2):69, July 1960).
- 7) An immature seen at Jacob Riis Park, Queens Co., 6 September 1964 by Tom Robben and Eliot Hirshberg (Robben, *Kingbird*, 15(1):23, January 1965).
- 8) A bird seen and photographed at Short Beach, Nassau Co., 10 September 1966 by Cornelius Ward, Emanuel Levine, Helen Hirschbein, Tom Davis, Edwin Daly (*Kingbird*, 17(1):60, January 1967).
- 9) A bird present at the feeding station of Lou L. Burton, Belmont, Allegany Co., from 30 November 1966 to 13 May 1967 (Burton & Burton, *Kingbird*, 17(2):85, May 1967 and 17(3):156, July 1967) and photographed by Ed Olmstead and Harold D. Mitchell.



*Photograph by Harold D. Mitchell
Belmont, Allegany Co., 13 May 1967*

- 10) An adult male at feeder of L. M. Wright, Ithaca, Tompkins Co., May 19, 1967, verified by Robert J. Smith and Dorothy McIlroy (*Kingbird*, 17(3):162, July 1967).

Five of the seven fall reports are in the brief period 31 August to 11 September. The other two fall records are of birds which appeared in late November; one of which remained at a feeder well into the following spring. There is also a record from mid-May, one from early June and one from late February.

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ED. NOTE: See Region 10 report this issue for additional Lark Bunting record Sep. 24, 1967.

CHANGE IN DATE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Federation will be held in Rochester *April 26, 27 and 28, 1968*, a week earlier than announced in the October *Kingbird*. The change has been made because of the conflict with the Wilson Society meeting the first weekend in May.

The banquet speaker will be Dr. Tom J. Cade, Research Director of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. He will tell and show pictures of the latest Alaskan trip to study the Peregrine Falcon and other birds. The banquet will be held at the Sheraton Hotel.

The Sunday morning breakfast before the field trips will be at Bausch and Lomb, Inc.

We are still soliciting papers for the Saturday afternoon paper session. Anyone interested in presenting a paper should write to Dr. Neil S. Moon, 25 Edgewater Lane, Rochester, N.Y. 14617, chairman of the paper session.

There will be a mailing of recommended motels and restaurants along with a complete program at a later date.

NORTH AMERICAN NEST RECORD CARD PROGRAM

As many readers are aware, the Nest Record Card Program is now completing its third year on a continent-wide basis. We appreciate the assistance of the hundreds of persons and Bird Clubs whose enthusiasm and patience make this program possible. We are anxious to solicit help from as many clubs and cooperators as possible. If you are interested in helping in this research, please get in touch with the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University for instructions and nest-record cards. Before the new nesting season begins, we urge all present contributors to return any completed cards. We also request that participating clubs and birders order additional cards, if necessary, well in advance of the 1968 nesting season.

(Mrs.) Edith Edgerton, Nest Record Card Program, Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.