



Chestnut-collared Longspur – Bay County Park, Nassau County
Georges Dremeaux *7 June 1982*

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES
43. CHESTNUT - COLLARED LONGSPUR

MILLARD R. LINDAUER

A male Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*), in breeding plumage, was discovered late in the afternoon on 6 June 1982 at Bay County Park, Nassau County. The sky was overcast. The bird was first observed as it landed in very sparse, short grass and weeds at the edge of a gravel road. It remained feeding in this situation for the fifteen minutes spent studying and photographing it, and was still feeding where first observed upon my departure from the area. The bird was alone.

Upon returning three days later, I found the bird still present, but this time feeding in lush, mowed grass. In mentioning this, may I quote George M. Fairchild in Bent's *Life Histories* (1968, *U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* 237, p. 1636): "Several writers have noted their habit of stopping for several days at favorable feeding and watering places." This reference is, of course, to their spring migration in their normal range.

John Bull, in *Birds of the New York Area* (1964, p. 466), gives the range of the Chestnut-collared Longspur as "a central Nearctic species of the Great Plains, breeding east to southwestern Minnesota. Winters east to Louisiana. Stragglers recorded east to the Atlantic coast from New Brunswick to Maryland."

This constitutes the fifth record for New York and the first sighting in thirty-eight years.

This bird was last seen on 8 June 1982.

It is interesting to note that this sighting is the only known summer occurrence. Of the previous records, two were in April, one in February and another in September.

130 Home Street, Valley Stream, New York 11580