

LONG POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY

P.O. BOX 160, Port Rowan, Ontario, Canada N0E 1M0 Tel: (519) 586-3531



RARITY REPORT

In order that any sight record or banding of a rare species can be accepted for the historical record, it must be properly documented. LPBO cooperators are therefore asked to complete a form in every case where a rarity is being claimed. Guidance as to which species are considered rare in the Long Point area may be obtained from the Migration Program Manager. Each observer should prepare his/her description independently and preferably before consulting any field guides or other literature. PLEASE PRINT.

Species claimed: Yellowhammer (Emberiza citrinella)

No. of birds: 1

Age: unknown

Sex: Unknown

Date(s): 27 October, 2003

Place: Long Point, Tip

Time(s) of Observation: 1130 to 1200

Who first saw the bird(s): Christian Friis

Who first identified it: Christian Friis

Other observers (names and addresses):

Henr: Robert

Any who disagree: No

Your previous experience with the species: None

Your previous experience with any closely similar species:

(a) Formerly: North American Sparrows and Buntings

(b) Same day: Many Sparrow Species, including Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow

Species present for comparison: Slate-colored Junco, Fox Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, E. White Crowned Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow.

Which were beside it for comparison: All of the above.

Distance from observer(s): less than 1 metre.

How measured: estimate.

Optical aids used: Swift Audubon 8.5 x 44 Binoculars

Weather conditions (at time of observation)**For "Waterbird " records only**

Visibility: about 10 km

Lake conditions:

Cloud Cover: 100%

Lighting: Good, overcast light

Wave height:

Wind direction and speed: minimal wind (B.F. 2)

Height of observer above lake:

From the SW
Other relevant conditions:
(eg. rain, snow cover, etc.)

Was observer's position sheltered:

Weather system preceding the date of observation (if known):

Not known

Attach weather map clipping from local or national newspaper if relevant.

Associated movements of other species:

Good Movement of Sparrows, Finches and other passerines

Was the bird trapped: No

Band # if banded:

Was it photographed: No, unfortunately.

If yes, by whom (name and address):

Specimen or parts preserved:

Present location:

Circumstances:

Preparing for a boat-trip into Old Cut field station for supplies, I went out to ^{the point} to collect a radio to bring ~~back~~ back and exchange in-land. As I walked out towards the end of the point I flushed all sorts of sparrow species, Goldfinches, and so on. I then noticed a ^{relatively} large, brightly plumaged bird among some Junco's. I got an excellent first view of the bird perched for one to two minutes, after which it flew on to continue feeding. I followed the bird for about twenty to thirty minutes along the South ridge of the point watching its habits and getting every field mark possible.

Description:

Give separate description for (a) in the field (b) in the hand. Include full measurements and wing formula with hand descriptions.

I have attached a field sketch made after the sighting for additional support to the following description.

Size: Relative to a Fox Sparrow, but not as chunky, certainly a large bird when compared to the Junco's and Chipping Sparrow's with which it was foraging.

Head: Yellow overall. Facial pattern similar to Lapland Longspur, but much less distinct. Similar head shape to Fox Sparrow, indistinct crown?

Upper parts: Brownish, sparrow-like. Distinctly dark tertials flanking red/rufous rump. Nape with distinct dark streaks

Under parts: Yellow overall with reddish streaking extending from sides of throat to flanks. Belly unmarked and yellow. Perioth yellow with ~~no~~ streaking

Tail: Distinct white flashes in outer rectrices, similar to Junco or Vesper Sparrow, but with less white in extent. Not noticeably long or

Short.

Bill: Bunting Bill - relatively large and seed-eater-like (Cardinalidae)
 Certainly one of the brightest birds I've seen in the fall
 and to my knowledge, the similar species in North America
 lack the yellow colouring and red-rufous rump with white
 flashes in the tail. This bird blew my mind.

There was no evidence of wing clipping or feather abrasion related
 to aged-bird life.* There is the possibility that if it is an
 escapee, a (P) complete molt may have occurred. The plumage
 was relatively fresh, and the behaviour suggested the bird
 was comfortable "in the wild".

* The tail did not have the typical wear associated with
 captivity.

(Continue on extra sheet if required)

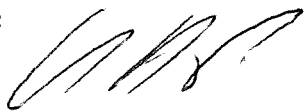
Did you refer to any guides/other literature:

(a) at the time: No

(b) afterwards: Yes

Finally, is this record 100% certain? Absolutely.

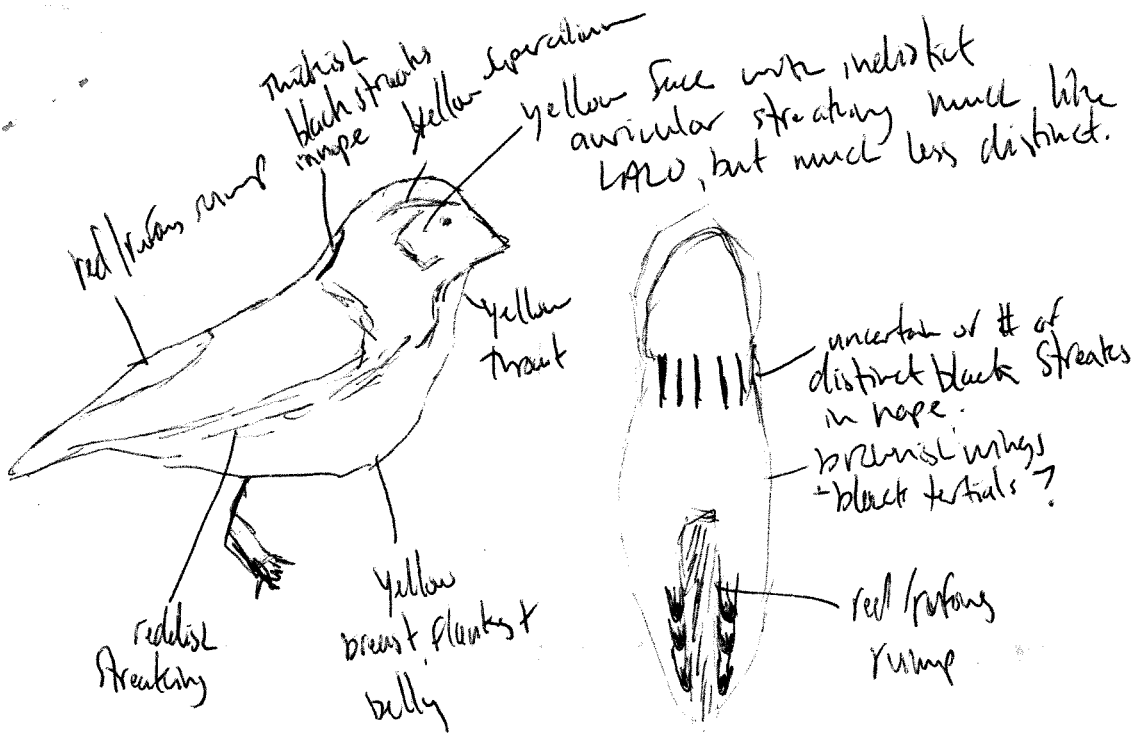
Signed:



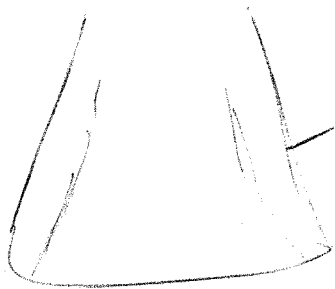
Christian Kris

Date: 29 October 2003

Mailing Address:



- ~~Seed~~ bill - smaller than RBLB, lg r than BTLO bill.
- size = lg / same as FOSP
- habits = ground feeding with SCJU, CTSS, FOSP, SOSP
 - fly to perch, generally low to ground.



white flashes in tail when flying; uncertain as to extent of white.

- much like SCJU / NESP from what was observed.

