

published records of this species in Florida, although Thomas W. Hicks tells us he observed single males of this species in the winter several years ago on the St. Johns River at Jacksonville, Duval County, and on Reedy Lake at Frostproof, Polk County.

On the morning of February 15, 1953, we observed two Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) at Cedar Key, Levy County, Florida. The birds were resting on a sandspit along the causeway connecting the key with the mainland, along with several Willets (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*), Forster's (*Sterna forsteri*), Royal (*Thalasseus maximus*), and Caspian (*Hydroprogne caspia*) terns, Western Sandpipers (*Ereunetes mauri*), and Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*).

All during the previous night exceptionally high winds were blowing in from the Gulf of Mexico. These winds probably accounted for the Avocets' presence so far east. When we attempted to frighten the birds from the sandspit, they were unable to make any headway into the wind. This appears to be the third record of Avocets on the west coast of Florida, and one of less than a dozen records for the state.—DALE W. RICE AND EDWARD L. MOCKFORD, *Biology Department, University of Florida, Gainesville, March 18, 1953.*

Smith's Longspur: an addition to the Louisiana list.—On December 13, 1952, while walking across the old Municipal Airport, located just north of Shreveport, Louisiana, in a section of Bossier Parish lying west of the Red River, I flushed a single Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*). I was able to recognize it by the combination of its typical longspur "clicking" call notes and its pipit-like tail-pattern. Although I flushed it several times and covered a considerable part of the area, no other individuals were found that day. There are no previous records of the Smith's Longspur in Louisiana.

One week later I returned to the airport and soon flushed a flock of about 35 birds of this species. On the following day, December 21, I collected a female from the flock; it is now in the collection of the Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University. The flock remained in the area for several weeks and was augmented with additional birds for a short period in January. I was able to make an almost exact count of the flock while it was in flight on January 25, 1953; there were 45 or 46 birds present, which seemed to be the peak of their numbers here. By February 22 the flock numbered about 33, and on March 1 only 10 longspurs remained. I next visited the airport on March 8, but was unable to find any birds of this species.

During the course of my visits to the area, it became apparent that the Smith's Longspurs showed a strong preference for a small part of the airfield which had a dense growth of a particular kind of grass that occurred only sparingly on the remainder of the field. Richard K. Spears, of the Botany Department of Centenary College, has informed me that this grass is a species of *Aristida*. This provided such dense cover that I was seldom able to see the birds until after they flushed.

This airport has not previously been searched by a bird student in winter. In view of the considerable number of Smith's Longspurs which occurred in this one area, particularly in the month of January but also through a good part of the winter, and since the species was found in December, 1951, at Lonoke, Arkansas (Coffey, *et. al.*, 1952. *Audubon Field Notes*, 6:138), it seems likely that the Smith's Longspur will prove to be of regular occurrence in winter, at least in small numbers, in the north-western corner of Louisiana.—HORACE H. JETER, 4534 *Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana, March 26, 1953.*