

VAN DYK 8/5

August 2, 1981

Thomas H. Kent
211 Richards Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Dear Dr. Kent:

Just a brief note with two items:

- (1) I am unable to submit a summer report, as I was out of Iowa for almost the entire period. From here on in, however, it looks as if my schedule will permit sufficient fieldwork to prepare a fall report.
- (2) I appreciated your report on the Smith's Longspur. I certainly will be willing to volunteer for participation in a survey next spring. I fully believe that the Smith's Longspur is more regular in Iowa than the literature would seem to suggest. I wonder, however, about the 10th of April. A few years ago I was in Norman, Oklahoma, where Smith's Longspurs are regular winter visitors, on March 20. A diligent search with local birders of the wintering grounds revealed that at that time they had already departed. Depending on how long they linger on the way, a mid-March departure from Oklahoma might well bring them into Iowa by the end of March or early April. Would it be possible to contact birders near some of the wintering grounds, in order to obtain more precise information about arrival and departure dates? Such information might make an Iowa search more productive. In any case, I will strongly support efforts to find this bird in Iowa.

Sincerely,



Dr. John Van Dyk
736 East 1st Street
Sioux Center, Iowa 51250
