

Lapland Longspur

Calcarius lapponicus

A common songbird of the Arctic tundra, the Lapland Longspur winters in open fields across much of the United States and southern Canada.

Keys to Identification

Appearance

Adult description

- Medium-sized sparrow-like bird.
- Short, thick, pointed bill.
- White outer tail feathers.
- Rufous patch in wings.
- Streaked sides.
- Smudge on breast.
- Breeding male with black face and chest, yellowish eyestripe, and rufous nape.

Immature Description

Similar to adult.

Cool Facts

- Some winter flocks of Lapland Longspurs have been estimated as large as four million birds. During snowstorms, such flocks sometimes collide with lighted structures such as radio towers, and thousands can be killed in a single night.

Measurements

Both Sexes

- Length - 5.9 - 6.3 inches
- Wingspan - 8.7 - 11 inches
- Weight - 0.8 - 1.2 ounces

