

2003-107

## Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

CBRC FILE #: 2003-107		
RESULTS: (A)		
Species: (Common Name) <b>Snow Bunting</b>	(Scientific Name) <b>Plectrophenax nivalis</b>	
Date(s) of occurrence: <b>12-10-2003</b>		
Number of birds seen: <b>One</b>	Sex: <b>I believe the bird was a male (?) due to overall paleness.</b>	Plumage: <b>Basic</b>
Exact location: <b>Hwy. 394 ESE of Craig at CR 100</b>		
County: <b>Moffat</b>	Nearest town: <b>Craig</b>	Elevation: <b>Approx. 6200 ft.</b>
Length of observation: <b>Approx. 5 minutes</b>	Time(s) of observation: <b>~3:00 pm</b>	
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: <b>George Hopper</b>		
Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): <b>None</b>		
Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position): <b>Overcast and snowing</b>		
Optical equipment used: <b>Swarovski EL 8 X 42 and Leica Televid 77 APO Scope with 20-60X zoom.</b>		
Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): <b>30 ft.</b>		
Was (Were) bird(s) photographed? <b>No.</b>	If so, are you submitting photos?	
Who took the photograph(s)?		
Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: <b>Irrigated hayfield and dirt road.</b>		
<p>Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: <b>When I first noticed this bird it had taken flight from a hayfield in the company of several Horned Larks. I noticed that there was a somewhat smaller and differently shaped bird in the flock so we waited but the birds did not return to the immediate vicinity. A short while later we returned to the same location and several Horned Larks were on the dirt road in front of us picking at gravel. I scanned through the flock and found the Snow Bunting. It stayed on the dirt road for a few minutes and then scattered with the Horned Larks, flew behind us and landed on a telephone wire approx. 30 ft. from our vehicle. All of the other birds went back to the ground. After observing it there for a few more moments it then went to the ground directly behind our vehicle, again in the company of Horned Larks where it picked at gravel. After a few more minutes, the entire flock scattered again.</b></p>		
<p>DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report. <b>Crown, and ear patch, tawny-brown, some of this color also washed on sides, black mark on wing below shoulder, primaries black, large white wing patch, dark streaks on tawny-brown back, white underparts, dark eye, yellow bill with very small amount of black at tip. I did not get a good look at the rump. The central tail appeared mostly black with some white appearing in the outer tail feathers both when the bird was in flight and standing.</b></p>		
Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted:		
<p>SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: <b>I do not believe this could have been any other species.</b></p>		
What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? <b>I have seen many Snow Buntings both in basic and alternate.</b>		
List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation): <b>National Geographic to try and determine the sex of the bird.</b>		
This report was made from (check one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> notes made after observation		
Date and time of written report: <b>04-10-2004</b>		
Reporting observer: <b>Rachel Hopper</b>	Signature: <b>Rachel Hopper</b>	
Reporting observer's address: <b>1721 Cottonwood Pt. Dr.</b>		
City: <b>Ft. Collins</b>	State: <b>CO</b>	Zip: <b>80524</b>