

LAPLAND LONGSPUR

THE CHANCES are good that if the snows of the winter have vanished from the fields of the United States by the time this is read, it will be another winter before the Lapland Longspurs again come south across the border from their northern bedding ground. During the winter months they may be seen south of the

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Canadian border from North Dakota to Texas and east to South Carolina. In the Old World they come south in both Europe and Asia to about 30 degrees north latitude.

The breeding territory is bounded on the south by approxi-



Lapland Longspur
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imately the region of the lastrees, although this is not a safe arbitrary boundary.

Lapland Longspurs may be seen sometimes feeding on weed seeds gleaned from weedy tops that stick above the snow. If the ground is bare they have exceptional ability to conceal themselves by crouching on the

State's Vegetables For Canning Would Fill Mammoth Tin

If some 20th century Paul Bunyan could mold a tin can big enough to hold all the vegetables grown for processing in Oregon last year, the giant container would cover a baseball diamond and tower 1,547 feet high.

American Can company economists report that the mammoth can would contain 203,400 tons of snap beans, peas, sweet corn, beets and other vegetables—the 1952 canning harvest of Oregon's fertile valleys.

More than one-eighth of the snap beans grown for processing

ground. They are usually found with other birds such as Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, Juncos, and now and then a Tree Sparrow. Like the Junco, the Lapland Longspurs have outer tail feathers that are white or apparently so. The Longspurs have a slightly greater wing-spread than the Tree Sparrows, the Longspur being between 10 and 11 inches and the Tree Sparrow between 9 and 10 inches.

Like the Horned Larks, and unlike the Juncos and Tree Sparrows, the Longspurs may run instead of hop and like the Horned Larks the Longspurs show a conspicuous, long hind-toe track. There are four species of Longspurs to be found in the North American continent of which the Lapland Longspur is the eastern representative. Two other species may accidentally find their way east of the prairie country now and then.

Grasslands or salt-marsh country offer the greatest appeal to visiting Lapland Longspurs and here they may be found in flocks in season.

Our picture shows an adult male in summer plumage. The face, crown, throat and upper breast are black and the nape and lower back of the neck is chestnut. The conspicuous field character would probably be what appears like a black cap and black-streaked side of the breast. The back is conspicuously streaked with black and brown or with a dark and lighter brown. In winter the conspicuous black shown in our illustration is for the most part missing though there are dark to blackish spots on the sides of the throat and back of the eye. The female looks much like the adult male in winter but lacks much of the dark brown and black of the male.

Superficially these birds look like brown Juncos or remotely like Vesper Sparrows, which would be far away when the Longspurs were to be seen in the United States.

Economically the birds serve a role as destroyers of weed seeds though it is doubtful if this is important in view of the abundance of seeds available. They are interesting to watch in winter weather, however, and the National Wildlife Federation hopes that they will never be driven from their natural range.

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in the United States last year would go into the jumbo-size can, a striking illustration of Oregon's importance as a supplier of food to the nation, the can-making firm pointed out. The Beaver state's bean crop for processing totaled 51,700 tons.

About half of the state's entire crop of peas for processing—55,540 tons—would be poured into the giant tin, plus thousands of tons of beets, sweet corn, asparagus and other vegetables.

"This mythical container actually represents millions of regular-size cans of Oregon food which are distributed from coast to coast each year," said E. G. Gross, representative for Canco in Oregon. "The expanding markets provided by the canning industry for the state's perishable food crops offer a major source of income for Oregon's farmers."

The representative for the firm whose Portland factory has supplied containers for the state's processors for the past 50 years explained that canning vegetables in 1952 recorded a 49 per cent increase in tonnage over the average for the 1941-1950 period.

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