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CFO-ORC FILE # 56-78-1

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD  UNUSUAL RECORD 

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Snow Bunting  
(Vernacular Name)Plectrophenax nivalis  
(Scientific Name)

Date(s): 24 January 1977

Number of birds seen: One Sex: Male(?) Plumage: Non-breeding

Locality: 6-7 miles southeast of Castle Rock on Douglas Co. 11 Elevation: about 6000 ft.

Nearest town: Castle Rock County: Douglas

Time(s) observed: At 1510

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.) 4-5 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

None.

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

John and Joyce Cooper

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

In shade of a house.

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 10 X 50 binoculars

Distance, and how measured: Minimum estimated distance-about 5 ft.

If photographed, type of equipment and film:

Who else photographed the bird?

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Sat on ground between driveway and house during entire observation (obviously not healthy).

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern.

Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observed in the field:

A medium-sized chunky finch-type bird; head and underparts white, with the crown and nape pale cinnamon; brown auricular patch; very pale gray lores; small, cinnamon wedge on side of breast; brown back with fairly narrow, fuzzy blackish-brown streaks; rump similar to back; wing mostly black with white feather edgings, with a white patch at shoulder and on part of the primaries; secondaries, primary and greater coverts; tertials and inner secondaries broadly edged with pale cinnamon; rest of flight feathers narrowly edged with white; tail quite short, forked, black with feathers narrowly edged with white, outer tail feathers entirely white; eyes black; legs black; bill orange with tiny black tip.

## Description, (continued)

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

None.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Ground outside home; adjacent to large, plowed field-general countryside with short grass on lower hillsides, valleys and scrub oak on higher hillsides.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Nothing else resembles Snow Bunting (Horned Lark, longspurs, etc. all completely different)

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

Have never seen Snow Bunting before; larks, longspurs very many times.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: None needed.

b) after observation:

This report was written from notes made during X, after        observation; from memory       .

Date and time report was written: 27 December 1977-1240

Reporting observer: Robert Andrews Signature: Robert Andrews

Address: 1390 So. Ivy Way, Denver, Colorado 80224

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below.

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,  
CITY PARK  
DENVER, COLORADO 80205