

(Jeff Lemons)



## Calcariidae the LONGSPURS

Longspurs are small songbirds that might be mistaken for sparrows, but they are now placed in their own taxonomic family. They eat insects most of the year, but they have stout bills that are used for cracking open and eating seeds, which are their primary food source in winter. Most North American longspurs nest along the edge of the Arctic tundra.

There are only six species of longspurs in the entire world. Four of these six species have been found in the Carolina Piedmont. Three, the Smith's Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur, and Snow Bunting, are described in the Supplementary Bird List. The fourth, the Lapland Longspur, is described here.