

Description taken in the field on 20th May. Size and proportions similar to Greenfinch, bill very heavy and conical and very dark, lighter on hind portion of underside. General colouring greyish olive-brown, paler on underside.

Crown, nape and mantle, finely streaked darker brown, supercilium slightly paler than the ear coverts which seemed to have a more olive colour than the rest of the head in some lights. The wing coverts were brown with narrow pale edges and creamy tips to greater and median coverts forming a double wing-bar. Primary coverts narrowly tipped paler, forming a short diagonal bar below and behind that formed by the greater coverts. The primaries, secondaries and tail were brown with narrow pale edges, more olive in colouring than on the rest of the body and wing, brown rump, pale chin, finely and sparsely streaked dark, buffish breast with fine but distinct brown streaking, buffish flanks with indistinct darker streaking and off-white undertail coverts. The eyes were dark brown, legs and feet dark brown. No call was heard.

Wing length 85 mm, tail 54 mm, bill to feathers 11 mm, weight 24.3 gm. Primaries: 1 = primary coverts - 11 mm, 2 = L, 3 = L, 4 = L (2, 3 and 4 emarginated), 5 = -4, 6 = -10, 7 = -13.5, 8 = -17, 9 = 19, 10 = -22.5.

A.M. Taylor

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*. 17th September, 1975

First seen by W. Rogers in cottage garden eight yards from window and pointed out to me. It flew away and returned several times and was then caught in a single shelf mist net.

A dumpy finch with a cleft tail and domed head, it perched very upright. In the field it was basically olive-green with two obvious off-white wing bars formed by the tips of the median and lesser coverts. Top of head striated darker as was mantle, back and rump (less streaking) Tail and wings a shade darker than the body plumage, whitish breast, streaked with diffuse markings down to the pectoral region and extending to the flanks. The soft parts were dark eye with no eye ring and legs a House Sparrow pink. Call note in flight and when perched was a 'tweak'.

In the hand a slight rufous tinge could be seen on the belly around the leg feathers.

Wing 84 mm., weight 23.5 gms., at 17.00 hours.

1st primary minute, third to fifth equal and longest and emarginated on outer webs.

M. Rogers

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*. 12th, 13th October, 1975.

The bird, an immature or female, was first seen in weedy tractor ruts just north of the High Street gates, a popular feeding area for finches and buntings. At a distance the bird appeared to have a distinctly dark head as it ran along the rut feeding occasionally in a rather 'mouse-like' manner, infrequently flicking its tail in the manner of a Reed Bunting but not as often. The carriage was very horizontal. Basically a very small Reed Bunting type of bird about Linnet size with proportionately shorter tail the outer feathers of which were white. Back streaked as Reed Bunting but the effect was more subdued. The underparts were satiny white with a few dark flecks extending along the flanks. Crown brownish, separated from tawny ear coverts/cheek patch by a lighter brown or cream superciliary. Wings basically the same colour and texture as back. Median and greater coverts had slight buff tips. The bill was horn, proportionately a little longer and finer than Reed Bunting and legs pink.

A soft 'tip' call was heard frequently both on the ground and in flight less harsh than the 'tip' of a Robin. When seen later the cheek patch was seen to have light braces plus a lighter area and the bill colour noted to be light grey.

The bird was seen on both days also by N.A. Clark and a detailed description supplied.

M. Rogers