

URGENT LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

House Bill 315 Voted Upon in Illinois House

HB315 was voted upon by the Illinois House of Representatives yesterday. The bill required 60 votes for passage. When only 55 state representatives voted to support the proposal, the sponsor of the bill pulled it from the record and placed on the order of Postponed Consideration.

What this means is that the vote was not official. In a parliamentary move, the bill was pulled from the record before the failed vote was recorded. Therefore, we fully expect that the bill's supporters will be working hard over the next couple of weeks to switch the votes of at least five House members. We must work hard to solidify the opposition and work to pull some supporters off the subsequent vote.

Senate Introduces Its Own Version of the Animal Overpopulation Control Act

Senator Don Harmon (D-Oak Park) amended Senate Bill 2078 last week to include all of the same objectionable provisions contained in House Bill 315. Dr. Joanne Carlson testified in opposition to the bill on behalf of the ISVMA. Despite Dr. Carlson's exemplary testimony, Senate Bill 2078 passed the Senate Health & Human Services Committee on a 8-2 vote and will soon be voted upon by the full Senate.

Your Continued Grassroots Efforts Are Needed! Now There Are Two Bills To Oppose

The grassroots political efforts of ISVMA member veterinarians were responsible for the first round defeat of House Bill 315. However, just like a championship boxing match, this fight will last several more rounds.

We need every ISVMA member veterinarian to contact their state representative. Ask them if they recall how they voted on House Bill 315 (no official voting record exists because the bill was pulled from the record) and if they opposed the bill thank them and ask them to continue their opposition. If they supported the bill, explain the problems associated with the bill and ask them to reconsider their vote.

We also need you to contact you State Senators and ask them to oppose Senate Bill 2078.

Please contact the legislators that represent the district you live in and the district where your veterinary practice is located. [***Click here to find out who your legislators are and how to contact them.***](#)



ISVMA Puts Lobby Resources on Website

ISVMA has placed several resources on its website for members to utilize in their grassroots lobby effort. Position papers on HB315 and SB2078 are available for download.

Additionally, we suggest that you make postcards available for your clients to express their opposition to the rabies vaccination tax.

Click [here](#) to access these useful resources.

About the Photo in This Issue...

Uncommon and secretive, the Smith's Longspur breeds in open, arctic tundra and damp, tussock meadows. Small and slender (16cm), they have long, pointed wings, long tails and stout, beige bills. The breeding male flaunts a distinctive black-and-white head with white cheek-patches and eyebrows offset by a rich, black crown. In contrast with the flashy head, the neck and breast are a golden-wheat color.

Although the male's white shoulder patches are often obscured, the tail pattern is conspicuous in both sexes. On each side of the dark tail, the two outermost feathers are white. Duller overall, the plumages of breeding females and juveniles display crowns streaked in grays and browns. Their pale eyebrows offset brownish cheek-patches. In all plumages, the nape and underparts are uniformly buffy, while the back, tail and wings are streaked in browns. Look for their buffy body and flesh-colored legs to distinguish this species from other longspurs.

Smith's Longspurs winter in open, grassy fields in parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Kansas and Arkansas. They are a regular spring migrant to the midwest and east to Indiana. During the breeding season, they range from eastern mainland Alaska, into parts of Yukon and across the northernmost edge of Canada to Quebec.

I photographed this Smith's Longspur during a field trip I co-led in Central Illinois in April 2004. Dozens of birders from all over the country joined the trip in search of this species which eludes many bird listers.

Contact Us

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