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## Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris* in Arunachal Pradesh

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On 11.x.2004 I photographed a Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris* in Arunachal Pradesh. While Ali and Ripley (1987) report the species from all along the Himalayas including Bhutan and NEFA (earlier name for Arunachal), Grimmett, et al. (1998), and Kazmierczak (2000) have completely excluded Bhutan from its range and put a question mark on Arunachal Pradesh. Whatever be the reason for this change in status it suggests that sightings of this species in Arunachal have been very scarce at best.

The photographs accompanying this note speak for the identification and I will not delve on it in detail. The bird appears to

be a sub-adult / first-winter female, from the thinness of the gorget and the lack of the forecrown black band. The races *elwesi* and *longirostris* differ in body size and length of beak (Ali and Ripley 1987).

Not having the bird in hand and not having seen any *longirostris* I can only say that the beak length did not appear to be incompatible with it being *elwesi* as indeed the distribution as per Ali and Ripley (1987).

The bird was seen early in the morning at 3,600m altitude along a road cutting in a well-wooded (and well-watered) conifer forest, quite unlike the "Tibetan facies" that this species is partial to. However, there is a record of this species even from Delhi

(Kelsey, et al. 2001: <http://www.delhibird.org>). The bird allowed close views for several minutes. On flying away to the top of a dead tree it uttered a subdued lark-like warbling. (Photo: [www.indianbirds.in](http://www.indianbirds.in)).

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