

various bird species, the particular one captured here. According to my mother, my love for birds had already taken root before my second birthday. I would eagerly nibble afterbirds, amused by their diverse sounds. Unlike the scolding sounds of jays, which were first beautiful, I was in clear awe of the melodic symphony created by birds. During my elementary school years, my closest friend and I enjoyed drawing and comparing birds as a cherished pastime. We were so passionate about our sketching, that we occasionally drew birds even during exams. As life's demands grew, our tradition died out, and my bird sketches became less frequent. However, during moments of stress or overthinking, I still find value in revisiting this childhood hobby, allowing the act of sketching birds and being in nature to soothe and ground me.

Besides sketching birds, I also find great joy in simply sitting on park benches, and looking at the harmonious sounds of all the different birds when the weather permits. The diversity of life compositions aligned with my lifelong passion immediately sparked my excitement and gained my undivided attention. It presented me with an opportunity to indulge in what has always inspired me. It also served as a strategic reflection on a cherished childhood pastime. Although my childhood friend moved back to Korea, drawing the endearing Chestnut-collared Longspur has brought back memories of him and of our favorite hobby. While trying my best to capture the essence of the magnificent bird, I began recalling its lifestyle and learned that despite being less vibrant in color compared to other competitive species, the Chestnut-collared Longspur is remarkably beautiful in both appearance and behavior. The Longspur's modest yet captivating appearance, characterized by its female's light beige and faded colors, and the slightly more vibrant male's chestnut, white, and yellow highlights, emphasizes its unique charm. The simplicity of its small body and muted colors ironically conveys a sense of grandeur, making the bird appear larger than its actual size. Furthermore, its lighter colors enable exceptional camouflage, a quality mirrored in its intricate songs, which perfectly complements its calm nature.

The Chestnut-collared Longspur distinguishes itself as an exceptionally beautiful and endearing bird. Its subtle elegance, reminiscent of the quiet grace I once cherished, makes it a