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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐

UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: SPOTTED OWL | Strix occidentalis  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

Date(s): 18-19 May 1979 - 2 adults // 12-15 May 1979 - 1 adult

Number of birds seen: 2 adults Sex: prob male Plumage: adult

Locality: Mesa Verde National Park <sup>Navajo Cyn</sup>  
Cliff Cyn Elevation: 7000 ft.

Nearest town: Mancos 7 miles E of entrance to Park County: Montezuma

Time(s) observed: Many times between 9:30 PM and dawn

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.) total ~ 5-6 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

between 12-15 May 1979  
Bambi Haney - 1162 Juniper, Boulder, CO 80302

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

NONE

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):  
after dusk using high intensity spotlight

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 8.5x44 Swift Audubon MKII

Distance, and how measured: estimated as close as 16 feet

If photographed, type of equipment and film: \_\_\_\_\_

Who else photographed the bird? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

From approximately 9:30 PM intermittently until about 2:00 AM, the owls would be calling from the rim of the canyons (Navajo Cyn. and Cliff Cyn.) Again calling at dawn.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observed in the field:

Size slightly smaller than a Great Horned Owl. An ear-tuftless rounded head which was frequently turned from side to side. While calling from exposed perches the owl would extend its head forward ~~most~~ <sup>farthest</sup> when giving the first and last notes of the five hoot series.

The owl lured into imitations of its calls. At these times generally between 16 feet and 30 ft. It was easily approached while perched. When at close range the dark eyes were easily visible, as well as the light spots in the overall ventral plumage.

Description, (continued)

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): Calls given were loud 5 hoot series given while perched

Hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo-Hoo the first and last notes most forceful

★ Calls were tape recorded and are available upon request.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Canyon rims of sandstone and perched on dead branches of Pinon-Juniper trees

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Its large size, with dark eyes and spotted plumage

also

Voice diagnostic

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

California - 2 times seen & heard.

Colorado - Rocky Mtn. Arsenal 1975 (?)

Arizona - audio only

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: None

b) after observation: None

This report was written from notes made during\_\_\_\_, after X observation; from memory\_\_\_\_.

Date and time report was written: 15 June 1979

Reporting observer: Bruce Webb

Signature: Bruce Webb

Address: Dept. EPO Biology, University of Colorado

Boulder, CO 80309

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below.

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,  
CITY PARK  
DENVER, COLORADO 80205