

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: Boreal Owl (Vernacular Name) Aegolius funereus (Scientific Name)Date(s): April 25 and 26 (1987) REPORT WRITTEN 1987Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Male Plumage: BreedingLocality: 150 yds north of Road 103, 0.4 mi east of Echotake Lodge. Elevation: ~10,500Nearest town: Idaho Springs County: Clear CreekTime(s) observed: 21:00 thru 01:30 calling continuouslyDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 5 min.Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):
noneOther observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):
Duane Nelson 31728 Burke Rd., Golden 80403 642-7109
David Martin 9330 W. 40th Dr., Westminster 80020 422-9143
Alan Hay 6361 Brooks Dr., Arvada 80004 422-0239
Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):
seen by 6 Volt flashlightOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 10 power binocularDistance, and how measured: 30 ft from tree. Bird ~ 40 ft up in treeIf photographed, type of equipment and film: N/AWho else photographed the bird? N/A

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

calling continuously. Responded to taped call at close distances (flew to within 5 ft of me). called because "aggressive?" when taped played at low volume and close range (50 ft or less)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 observe in the field:
larger than a saw-whet owl. Heavy dark brown and white streaking of chest and belly. white facial disc immediately noted. Heavily spotted forehead

Description (continued):

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

Series of 7-10 hoots given $\approx$ 10-15 seconds from perch. Silent in flight. Call had rising then falling inflections at end of each call.

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

In a very large fir tree $\approx$ 70 ft high. Bird perched $\approx$ 40 ft up, near trunk on exposed live branch. Most of surrounding trees smaller (30-50 ft).

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Saw whet is smaller, rusty stripes on underparts, very little white in facial disc. Call totally different from Boreal. Bird's call ~~exactly~~ very similar to taped ~~call~~ call I had with me. Bird responded to taped call by flying to within 5 ft of me.

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

Have held Saw whet's in my hand. Have never seen Boreal owl before, but had memorized call and had taped call in hand.

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

- a) at time of observation: Taped call very similar (Peterson's Bird Taped in Sweden. Some subtle differences noted.) This bird had more hoots, faster cadence and rising then falling inflection at end of call.
b) after observation: National Geographic Field Guide

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation ☒ from memory _____
Date and time report was written: 5-24-87

Reporting observer: Larry O Sanders Signature: Larry O Sanders

Address: 6545 E. Arizona Ave #10 Denver, CO 80224

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

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