

Species: BUSHEL ONL
(Vernacular name)AEOLUS FUNEREUS
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): 12/2/77 Time Bird Seen: 1:30pm to 1:55pmLocality: Approx. 1 mile north of Hwy 34 on Soda Creek - Grand
11 Mile - Grand County - Colorado
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: NONE USED

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: UNKNOWN Plumage: _____Light conditions: DIFFUSED AFTERNOON LIGHT DURING SNOW FALLDistance from bird, and how measured: Closest encounter was 55m, the
length of my ski pole.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

A very tame, calm, compact bird. ~~It~~ IT SEEMED TO BE RESTING, WITH IT'S EYES CLOSED 50% OF THE TIME. REFUSED TO LEAVE PERCH UNTIL PRODDED BY SKI POLE. THEREAFTER, THE BIRD FLEW SMOOTHLY, WITH 4 OR 5 WING BEATS, FROM TREE TO TREE UPON OUR APPROACH. NO VOCALIZATION.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: Middle aged lodgepole
PINE FOREST IN ROLLING, HILLY AREA. THERE WAS 2 1/2' OF SNOW
ON THE GROUND AND LOTS OF SMALL MAMMAL TRACKS PRESENT.

Other observers who independently identified this bird. (Please list name and address):

DEANIS D STAFFORD Box 148, GRAND HASE, COLO 80747Deanis is an experienced observer, whohelped me with the elimination of similar species

be in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

First seen from approx. 50 yds. We made a slow stealthy approach, not wanting to scare the bird. We started the elimination process by noting its size, about 16 to 12 inches. The facial disc was very evident, being white framed in black. The bird was quite compact looking, showed no ear tufts and was a dark brown color. His bill was a distinct light yellow and about 3/4 inch long. I did see the wings during flight, but cannot recollect anything but a solid brown color and no outstanding wingbars or marks. We both remarked at the distinct white spots on the forehead and could not even believe how close the bird had allowed us to get (55 CM.). He alternated the blinking in his eyes, which gave him a real sleepy look. We gave the bird a prod with the skipole to pick up extra field marks when he was in flight. The wings, to my recollection, were wide and rounded, about 20/24 inches from tip to tip. I also forgot to mention the vertical brown markings on the off-white chest. We followed the bird on our skis for about 45 minutes.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.: No calls were made.

List similar species and how you eliminated them: The Saw-Whet being as prevalent as I had been told, was my first guess, but upon seeing the distinct, black facial disc, I changed my mind. We eliminated the Hawk Owl because of the bird's lack of a long tail. We had used Allegra Collister's book, "Birds of R.M.N. Park." to arrive at the possibilities of the Saw-Whet, Boreal and Hawk Owls.

Prior experience with this and similar species: The only other owls I've had experience with are the Great-Horned and Snowy Owls.

This report was written from notes made during _____ after _____ observation; from memory _____. I used a combination of all the above for this report, but primarily used notes.

NAME (print): DAVID A. JASPER

Mailing address: BOX 128, GRAND LAKE, COLO. 80447

Signature: David A. Jasper

Return to:

Hugh E. Kingery
869 Milwaukee Street
Denver, Colorado 80206

Species: Boreal owl
(Vernacular name)*Aspeius funereus richardsoni*
(Scientific name)

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Date (s): December 2, 1977 Time Bird Seen: 1400 hrs to 1410 hrsLocality: 2 miles N.E. of Soda Creek Ranch, Grand Lake Co 80447

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: nonephotographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: was notNumber of birds seen: one Sex: ? Plumage: See textLight conditions: overcast, snowing lightly, in lodgepole forest 26°Distance from bird, and how measured: 10-12 feet, estimatedDescribe the bird's overall behavior: See text below.

I quote from the written report (and verbal report given to me by D. Jasper):
"Bowl sat on limb about 7 feet up from ground. Very tame. White spots on forehead, white eyelashes, possibly immature specimen. Deep wing stroke and glide. [Body] 9 to 10 in. Black lining on facial disc. 18" wingspan. Barred breast. A dark brown color. Was not a Saw whet. No ear tufts."

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Lodgepole Pine forest, during light snowfall, overcast, 26°F, 24" snow on ground.

They reported the bird was about a ski pole's length from them. Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

(Over)

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

David A. Jasper, Box 128, Grand Lake Co. 80447 came in the Visitor Center and told me of his observation soon after he saw the bird. I hadn't known him before, but he seemed rather competent in his bird knowledge and his description. He was with a friend who saw the bird, but wasn't knowledgeable. The friend was: Dennis Stafford

Box 192

Grand Lake, Co. 80447

I dropped a line to allegro collector on this. I have no further information, but Jasper could be reached by the mail address. He has no phone. Bob Haines

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Prior experience with this and similar species:

This report was written from notes made during _____ after ☒ observation; from memory _____.

NAME (print): ROBERT J. HAINES, WEST DISTRICT NATURALIST

Mailing address: P.O. BOX 100 ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK GRAND LAKE, CO. 80447

Signature: Robert J. Haines

Return to:

Hugh E. Kingery
869 Milwaukee Street
Denver, Colorado 80206