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CFO-ORC FILE # 28-78-58

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 | Aegolius funereus
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 16 July 1978 (Evening of 15-16 July)Number of birds seen: one Sex: unk Plumage: AdultLocality: Deadman Lookout. (along road to fire lookout) Elevation: approx 10,200 ft.Nearest town: Red Feathers Lakes County: LarimerTime(s) observed: Actually in early morning of 16 July 1978 at 1:15 AMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.) 10 seconds

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

none

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

noneLight conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):
night observation using a 4 cell (6 volt) flashlight directly illuminating the owlOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): none. Eyes onlyDistance, and how measured: 12-14 ft away. it perched 8-10 ft high on an exposed snag.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):

First observed perched as it investigated my squeaking noises (imitations of a mouse in distress) for 10 seconds then it flew out of sight.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:During the ten seconds duration while it was perched. I observed five features which convince me that it was a Boreal owl.

- 1 - Size: It was distinctly larger than a Saw-whet owl. In fact I was prepared to see an owl which was the size of a Screech owl. This bird was that size.
- 2 - Facial disk was black bordered and more heart shaped. ~~than~~ (Not oval shaped as in Saw-whet Owl.)
- 3 - Bill color was pale not dark (as Saw-whet owl)
- 4 - Plumage was that of an adult
- 5 Facial shape - see above

(OVER)

Description, (continued)

I was not able to see spotting on the crown, but other features were sufficiently apparent.

Night observations did not allow me to ~~test~~ distinguish between various colors - only pattern of light vs. dark.

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

no calls given by the bird.

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

Lodgepole pine adjacent to an old burned area. There was much fallen timber in the forest

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

1-size - it was distinctly larger than a snow-whet

2-bill color - pale

3-facial color - black-bordered

4-facial shape - somewhat heart-shaped

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

None with Boreal owl

Snow-whet owl - Several observations in the previous 2 months

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____ observation; from memory X.

Date and time report was written: August 14, 1978

Reporting observer: Bruce E. Webb

Signature: Bruce Webb

Address: Dept. E.P.O. 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