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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: Boreal Owl | Acgolinus funereus  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): May 23, 1992Number of birds ~~seen~~ 4 Heard 4 Sex: Unknown Plumage:       Locality: East side of Buffalo Pass Elevation: 10,200 to 10,400  
(SW corner of North Fork)Nearest town: Steamboat Springs (10 miles north of Rabbit Ear Pass) County: Jackson  
10 miles to the west of Buffalo PassTime(s) observed: 9:45 to 11:00 PMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 1st 2nd 4th birds 2-3 minutesOther observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers): 3rd bird 10 minutes callingNone

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):

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): NoneDistance, and how measured: 1000 - 1500 feet away Third bird I walked under the tree from which it was callingIf photographed, type of equipment and film: NoWho else photographed the bird?       

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

Typical Boreal Owl callNational Geographic "... a short, rapid series of hollow hoo

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:

From Grizzly Creek Guard Station to Buffalo Pass is 8 miles by road. The first 3 miles was open so I drove to a locked gate. I started hiking at 5 PM and reached the ~~Buffalo Pass~~ Summit Lake Guard Station at 8 PM. The first 3 1/2 miles was snow free (up to 9800). At the top the snow was 3 to 4 feet deep everywhere. To my surprise I could walk on it without falling through because it had melted. I was afraid I needed my



Description (continued):

snowshoes, but I did not need them.

By 8:45 PM I had walked 1 1/2 miles south along the continental divide and found a wind-blown spot under some spruce that was snow free to eat supper and wait for total darkness at 9 PM. From 9 - 9:45 PM I played Boreal Owl tape as I walked north to the Buffalo Pass road. This area is mostly open with only small thin stands of spruce which apparently do not provide enough cover and shelter from the wind for Boreal Owls (elevation 10,400 feet to 10,566 feet). This is a favorite area for skimmers. I heard no owls on top. As soon as I reached the road at 9:45 PM, I could hear a Boreal Owl calling about a

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

1000 feet north of me (about 1/2 mile east of Summit Lake). When I played my tape to try to call it in, it stopped calling. I saw with second bird I further east but to the north. Third bird was calling with ahead of me (east) along the road. I walked 1000-1500 feet to get close and tripped, ~~dropping~~ the batteries from my tape recorder. When I got them in Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the birds work. The owl Fairly dense spruce forest without any appreciable open ~~scalloping~~ even with fields or meadows

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

The call is unmistakable. I got under the dense group of spruce he was in but I could not find him. When he stopped calling I put my light on my tape recorder only to discover that the tape feed out when the batteries did. I went back to the place I tripped put the tape in - but the owl would not ~~not~~ respond. The fourth owl was further east, probably in the Breeding Bird phon block. As soon What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? as I played my I have seen and called other Boreal Owls.

stapes it stopped calling. From 10,200 feet down to about 8800 feet where my vehicle was parked I heard no Saw-who's. Reacted vehicle, 12:30 PM So there was ample time to listen, with essentially no wind List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation:

b) after observation: National Geographic Birds of North America

This report was written from reports made during \_\_\_\_\_, after observation \_\_\_\_\_ from memory \_\_\_\_\_

Date and time report was written: June 1, 1992 (I was birding in the North Park, Juniper, Boney area from May 20 to May 31)

Reporting observer: Dan Bridges Signature: J. A. Dan Bridges

Address: 1925 S. Vaughn Way #207 Aurora Co. 80014 and did not file any report

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
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