

accepted JR 3/23/74

VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNUSUAL RECORD

1. Species: SNOWY OWL | Nyctea scandiaca 2. Number: 1
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)
3. Location: SW of Denver, Ken Caryl Rd. slightly east of intersection with Independence St.
on a fence post beside road (So. side)
4. Date(s): Jan. 6, 1974 5. Time bird seen: 2:00 PM ST to 2:15 PM
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern. (Describe in great detail all parts of the plumage including beak and feet coloration in addition to the diagnostic characteristics; however, include only what actually was seen in the field): Size of medium sized Buteo Hawk, short tail, back and tail dark grey barred with white, head more finely marked of same color; side view - pure white feathers of breast and legs fluttered in the wind. Large eyes, black center, goldish outside. In flight, undersides all white except edge of wings and a small dark spot midway down wings. *Round head; no ear tufts.*
7. Description of voice, if heard: None
8. Description of behavior: See reverse side.
9. Habitat--general: Hilly (foothills of mountains) , few trees or shrubs. Snow cover.
specific: Depression between hills, no trees in sight, a few shrubs 1/4 mi. distant
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain:
Couldn't find a similar barred owl with a white breast.
11. Distance (how measured?): 12-14 ft., estimated car widths. (on post nearly 10 min.)
12. Optical equipment: None for near sighting. In flight 7-35 binoculars.
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer): Sunny, 1st location, bird between me and sun, but at such close range, did not interfere. In flight bird went east and NE away from sun.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: Saw one in 1971-- Cherry Creek Res. Area, in a tree beside road, also in flight.
15. What made you think this species was unusual or rare? Discussion at DFO meetings and on rare bird alert 1971.
16. Other observers: None
17. Did others agree with your identification? +-
18. Other observers who independently identified this bird: ??
19. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation: "Birds of North America". Although immature snowy owl not pictured, described as darker than mature and comes further south. Only other owl described as whitish underneath was barn owl which has a different shaped face, not barred and nocturnal.
20. If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used:

Bertha M. Dunshee Street Address: 1601 South Sherman St.
Signature
Date Prepared: Jan. 13, 1974 City and State: Denver, CO 80210

(USE THE REVERSE, OR ADDITIONAL PAGES, IF NECESSARY)

8. Perched on a fence post turning its head in all directions, including up. Did not appear to be disturbed by my car close by. (I stopped on curve and very slowly approached to opposite the bird in order to get out of the intersection)
Bird observed on post for nearly 10 min., then it circled in short flights, fairly low alighting on posts to the east. Finally alighting on a post opposite my car on No. side of the road. Then took off SW out of sight over a knoll.