

ACCEPTED (70)

APPENDIX III

CFO-ORC FILE # 1998-78

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

1st Report
rec'd 3-7-98 vNEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

PHOTO

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

Species: Snowy Owl / Nyctea scandiaca
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 1st seen 2/14/98 by Local / 1st seen by me 2/24/98
Observed daily since.
Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Young Male? Plumage: AdultLat/long: 21 Distribution Code: ACC Habitat Code: Sgt, CR, OBetween 3/7
Locality: Road 55 - Private Land Elevation: 3700Nearest town: Wiley, CO. 81052 County: ProwersTime(s) observed: 6:00 a.m.; 7:30 p.m. VARIOUS hours during daylightDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 1-4 hoursOther observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers): Linda, Lisa, Emily Paulsen DAVE Heatherman, entomologist
39035 County Rd 7 CO state forest Service
LAMAR, CO 81052 CO state University
719-336-7059 FORT COLLINS, CO. 80523Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):
BRYANT WILL Don Reyher 1st observer Ken Geison
Down Manager 2703 City Rd 55 Wiley, CO 81052 FORT COLLINS, CO
LAMAR, CO 81052 719-829-4575

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

IN full sun; early morning sun; late evening sun.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 8x40 Optalyth; KOWA 72mm
20x-60xDistance and how measured: estimate 1/8 mile to 45 feetIf photographed, type of equipment and film: Kodak Print / ASA 100
Canon EOS 210mm; minolta 300mm / minolta 1200mmWho else photographed the bird: VARIOUS - Don Reyher, Debbie Green,
MARYLOU Semmens, etc.Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying): Bird seen flying; hunting; preening; sunning;hopping; yawning; But none of these were used
in identifying bird.

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:

Large white owl seen sitting on piece of tin in short
grass prairie pasture (Private land)
Appeared to be somewhat

Description (continued): larger than a Great horned Owl.

Owl had yellow eyes, large rounded head with no
ear tufts. Had some brownish-grey on breast and
wings, and faint marks on head. large rounded wings.
Slow deliberate flight. Rested during day, but was observed
Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery,
(i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

None heard

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

Shortgrass prairie-bluegrass, buffalo grass, some
yucca, cactus. Hunts recently planted no
Will Conservation Reserve Program Land. (CRP).
How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Great horned Owl is smaller and brown. Barn owl
is considerably smaller and is white only on breast
w/ streaking, has dark eyes.
What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

1st Snowy owl seen. Great horned and Barn owl
seen frequently.

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

a) At time of observation: National Geographic and others used to
determine age of bird.

b) After observation: National Geographic; Terres; Stokes; Petersen.

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

Date and time report was written: 3/1/98 9:00 p.m.

Reporting observer: Janeal W. Thompson Signature: Janeal W. Thompson

Address: 704 Willow Valley Rd LAMAR, CO 81052-3926

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, CO 80205

2. And turned its head slowly from side to side. At approximately 5:30 p.m. owl would to small pond, become more active, and then would fly to Amni tower and perch until it would begin hunting at around 6:45-7:00 p.m. The chosen feeding area was large, recently planted Conservation Reserve Program field, (CRP) which has Kangaroo rats, other Rodent cottontails, etc. Bird was easily observed and seemed less wary than expected. Favorite daylight perch was piece of tin on which the bird sat for hours using it for a windbreak and nice place for sunning itself. Unchagrined by an irritated Rough-legged hawk, the Snowy owl seemed quite content on his tin perch and would stretch, yawn, preen, and doze, much to the delight of local farmers and their families.

Snowy Owl Report

JANEAL W. THOMPSON—

1998-78

ACCEPTED (70)

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

SNOWY OWL

Nyctea scandiaca

Location: 2.4 miles east on Road SS, 5.5 miles north of Highway 50 on Highway 287; Lamar, Prowers County, Colorado

Date: March 1, 1998

Setting:

This individual was present for some time prior to and after this sighting. It was brought to my attention by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Brandon Percival and I observed this bird at about 10:00 a.m. for 45 minutes. It was sunny and conditions were good except that it was very windy. We observed the bird at a range of 150-300 yards, both perched and in flight. We found the bird sitting on the ground, in the shelter of a twisted stock tank in open prairie. It flew a good distance to land on a fence post. Its flight was direct and with quick wingbeats and occasional soars - low to the ground. We watched it with binoculars and in my scope (Kowa TSN40). The bird perched on the ground at a low angle, very horizontally and not upright.

Description:

This was a large owl about 24" long. It had no "ears". It was a large, rounded-head owl. Overall it appeared white, and from a distance looked all white. However, in the scope it was apparent that it had neat tan to brown edges to the scapulars so that the back had a scalloped look. The breast, belly and crown were more lightly marked with brownish barring. The wing coverts were also barred. The tail was barred brown and white in flight. The eyes (irides) were yellow.

Similar Species:

We only need to consider albino owls and hawks. The large size, presence of brown barring and yellow eyes rule out all other similar birds.

Experience with Species:

I have seen all north American owls.

This report is prepared from notes made during and after observation.

Mark Janos
10 Sedum Ct.
Pueblo, CO 81001



1998-78

Ad. (♂?) Snowy Owl

N. Lamar, CO

March 3, 1998

✓ need

~2:30 p.m.

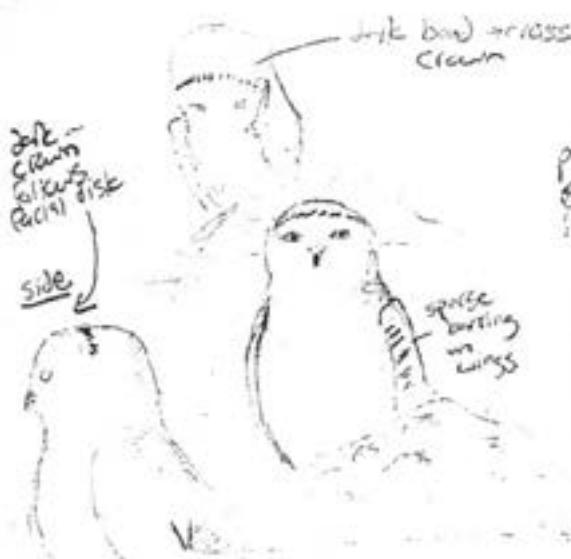
12-6-98

plumage almost entirely white
except a band across top of
head.

In wing stretch it had no apparent
dark in the flight feathers

bobbed head occasionally, stretched
each wing once & scratched
head once

eyes yellow



watched from 4:15 -
through Suksdski ST80
Scope at 60x

2.1 mi E of Rte 287 along
rd. SS - radar tower at 2.0 mi



black
scalloping on
2° coverts formed
thick band but
apparently did
not include
Greater 2° coverts
which appeared
white - the
secondaries themselves
appeared as a pale
gray band.

Marshall I Liff
901 Crystal Spring Farm Rd.
Annapolis MD 21403

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

RESULTS: _____

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPHS AND ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY. viced 2-27-98SPECIES: Snowy owl Nyctea scandiaca
(COMMON NAME) (SCIENTIFIC NAME)DATE(S) OF OCCURRENCE: 23 February 1998NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: _____ PLUMAGE: _____EXACT LOCATION: Co. Rd. 55, ~ 2 miles E. of Hwy 207, 10 mi N. of LamarCOUNTY: Prowers NEAREST TOWN: Wiley ELEVATION: _____LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 5 minutes TIMES(S) OF OBSERVATION: 5:15 - 5:20 pm

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S):

Bryant Will, Colo. Div. Wildlife, Lamar
Bryant reported owl to me, when I left Lamar I drove to location to
see owl
 LIGHT CONDITIONS [QUALITY; DIRECTION RELATIVE TO BIRD(S); POSITION]:

Late afternoon sun (5:15 pm), hazy overcast but bright

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED: Leitz 8x40 binocularsDISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED):
< 15 m.WAS THE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED: NO IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS? _____

WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS? _____

DESCRIBE THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD(S) OCCURRED:

short-grass rangeland south of road, rangeland north of road

DESCRIBE THE BIRD'S BEHAVIOR (FLYING; FEEDING; HABITS; BEHAVIORS USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN SUPPORTING THE IDENTIFICATION):

Initially observed owl sitting on wood fence post in ditch on North
side of road. Owl flushed < 50 m to another fence post. When I
approached by vehicle it flushed and flew ~150-200 m south and
perched on a radio/tower structure.

I was attending a meeting in Lamar on February 23, 1998 when Bryant Will (Division of Wildlife officer, Lamar, phone 719-336-7641) mentioned that a snowy owl had been regularly seen north of Lamar along county road SS and east of Colo. State Hwy 287. As I was leaving Lamar to return to Ft. Collins I decided to see if the owl was still there. As I drove along county road SS near the reported location I noticed the owl perched on a fencepost on the north side of the road and I stopped my vehicle about 15m from the owl. As I was observing the owl with binoculars from my vehicle it flushed and flew <50m and landed on another fencepost. After a minute I slowly drove my vehicle towards the owl trying to approach closer, but this time the owl flushed when I was 20-25m away and flew across the road to my left and eventually landed in a radio/radar structure about 150-200m south of the road. It flew 1-2m above the ground until it reached the structure when it swooped upwards to land. I observed it for another few minutes before I drove off. There was short-grass rangeland to the north of the road and I believe a mowed hayfield or shortgrass prairie to the south (vegetation was short, regardless) and there was no snow cover. My impression from talking to Bryant Will was that this owl had been in this location for some time.

Description of bird: The owl was perched on the top of a wood fencepost about 15m from my location in my vehicle. I observed the owl briefly with binoculars and noted it was similar in size and body shape to a great-horned owl, but its plumage appeared pure white. It flushed and flew parallel to the road away from me and landed <50m away on another fencepost. When it was flying I again noted the white plumage, including the wings and tail. The wings appeared somewhat more pointed and longer than in a great-horned owl. In flight (using binoculars) I detected only a limited amount of spotting or barring on the plumage of the back and wings, from longer distances and without binoculars the overall impression was of a totally white owl. No ear-tuffs were observed.

Similar Species: The great-horned owl would be similar in size, but this owl was totally white and lacked ear-tuffs. I have seen a snowy owl once before (28 years ago) when I lived in Minnesota.

I did not consult any field guide, as I believed this owl could not be mistaken for another species. Later I reviewed the BNA account - the owl I observed was much whiter than the photo on the cover of the BNA account. Even from 15m, I didn't see any barring until I looked with binoculars.

This report was made 2 days after the observation, from memory.

Date of written report 25 Feb 1998

Reporting observer Ken Giesen Signature Kenneth M. Giesen



6111-11-1112

J.W. Thompson

1998-78

2/25/98

J.W. Thompson
Snowy Owl (nestling)
Temple's pasture

Kodak
PREMIUM
Processing
FEB. 1998 DEK

1998-78

Kodak
PREMIUM
Processing
FEB. 1998 DEK