

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPHS, DRAWINGS AND ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NECESSARY)

SPECIES: Snowy Owl Nyctea scandiaca
(Common Name) (Scientific Name)DATE(S) OF OBSERVATION: February 4, 2000NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: One SEX: Unknown PLUMAGE: ImmatureEXACT LOCATION: halfway between Weld County Roads 97 and 99, just north of Hwy 14COUNTY: Weld NEAREST TOWN: Briggsdale ELEVATION: 5100'LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 30 minutes TIME(S) OF OBSERVATION: 9:15amOTHER OBSERVERS WHO SAW THE BIRD(S) WITH YOU:
Dave Ely, Fort CollinsOTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S):
Duane Weber, Dick Maxfield, mobLIGHT CONDITIONS (QUALITY; DIRECTION RELATIVE TO BIRD(S); POSITION):
Clear day, sunlight directly behind the observers during the entire observationOPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED:
90X Questar scope, 10X binocularsDISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED): 1/4 milesWAS BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED? yes IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS? yesWHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS? Dick MaxfieldDESCRIBE THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD(S) OCCURRED:
Perched on the edge of an old concrete farmhouse foundation, adjacent to open field

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

The bird was observed sitting on the wall, watching movements in all direction but did not leave this location during our observation and did not fly. It did turn its head around to view Horned Larks that were flying behind it, several times.

DESCRIBE THE BIRD IN DETAIL. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS REPORT. INCLUDE THE OVERALL SIZE AND SHAPE AND HOW YOU PLACED THE BIRD IN THE GENERAL GROUP THAT YOU DID. GIVE COMPLETE DETAILS OF PLUMAGE, INCLUDING HEAD, THROAT, UNDERSIDES, NAPE, BACK, WINGS AND TAIL. GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO MARKS YOU USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD(S). DESCRIBE OTHER DETAILS, SUCH AS COLOR AND SHAPE OF BILL, LEGS, EYE, ETC. THAT WERE IMPORTANT IN MAKING THE IDENTIFICATION. (FILL OUT THIS PORTION EVEN IF PHOTOGRAPHS ARE SUBMITTED; YOU MAY ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS, DRAWINGS, FIELD SKETCHES OR COPY OF FIELD NOTES):

Unmistakably, a Snowy Owl. The bird was very large, about the size of a Great Horned Owl, but bulkier and mostly white. It stood out quite well, even at a distance. Rounded head with no visible ears. Heavily feathered legs, white. Darkish feathering on the head indicates a young bird, but I did not feel it was as dark as some I have seen. Feathering on the wings, breast and belly was streaked with teardrop shaped brownish feathers, heaviest on the breast. (best contrast?) Eyes were bright yellow, very visible even at the distance against the whitish round face.

DESCRIBE BIRD'S CALL OR SONG:

It did not call.

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM:

I know of no similar species to which I can compare.

WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES?

This is the second Snowy I have seen in Colorado.

LIST BOOKS, GUIDES, RECORDINGS OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THIS INFLUENCED YOUR IDENTIFICATION (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION):

No references needed. We discussed key marks in the field during observation, mainly with reference to its age.

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM NOTES MADE DURING ____ OR AFTER XX OBSERVATION, AND LATER FROM MEMORY XX.

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT: February 5, 2000

REPORTING OBSERVER: Bill Lisowsky SIGNATURE: 

OBSERVER ADDRESS:

**2919 SILVERPLUME DR.
FT. COLLINS, CO 80526**



Snowy Owl
Briggsdale, CO (WELD)
2/4/00
Dick Maxfield

2000-80

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

(This is a two-page report. Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!Rec'd 3/29/00 upc
(Vid)

CFO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) Snowy Owl

(Scientific Name)

Date(s) of occurrence: 2/4/00

Number of birds seen: 1

Sex: Probably immature female

Plumage:

Pawnee National Grasslands

County: Weld

Nearest town: Briggsdale

Elevation:

Length of observation: ½ hour

Time(s) of observation: 6:45 – 7-15 a.m.

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Steve Dinsmore/Dick Maxfield/Norma Erickson

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): many

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: clear & sunny

Optical equipment used: Swarovski scope with 20-60 zoom

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): ½ mile

If so, have you submitted photos?

Who took the photographs?

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred:

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification):

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes):

please watch video

Describe bird's call or song:

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:

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

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation):

This report is from notes made during or after observation or later from memory

Date of written report: 3/9/00

Reporting observer: Rachel Kolokoff

Signature: Rachel Kolokoff

Reporting Observer's Address: 1721 Cottonwood Pt. Dr.

City: Ft. Collins

State: CO

Zip: 80524

Send report to:
Colorado Birds Record Committee
 c/o Bill Lisowsky
 2919 Silverplume Dr.
 Ft. Collins, Co. 80526

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

(This is a two-page report. Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

Recd 2/5/01 nje

CFO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS:

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Species:(Common Name): SNOWY OWL | | (Scientific Name) <i>Nyctea scandiaca</i> |
| Date(s) of occurrence: 6 February 2000 | | |
| Number of birds seen: One | Sex: Unknown but probably an immature male or adult female based on plumage. | Plumage: Immature male or adult female |
| Exact Location: Approximately 200 yards north of Colorado State Highway 14 roughly 9 miles east of the Town of Briggsdale. | | |
| County: Weld | Nearest town: Briggsdale | Elevation: 5000 msl |
| Length of observation: Roughly 7 minutes. | Time(s) of observation: Approximately 5:15 MST | |
| Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Joanne Stewart | | |
| Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): | | |
| Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: Partly cloudy, dusk | | |
| Optical equipment used: 8x40 Binoculars, 32x Spotting Scope | | |
| Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): Approximately 200 yards | | |
| Was bird(s) photographed? No | If so, have you submitted photos? | |
| Who took the photographs? | | |
| Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: Rolling shortgrass prairie | | |
| Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): Standing on ground. | | |
| Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes): | | |
| <p>After a couple of non-successful attempts in trying to locate the bird, we finally were able to spot it standing roughly 200 yards off of Highway 14 in short grasses. From the highway, we were able to observe the large, blocky size (similar in size to a Great Horned – about 2 feet in length), snow white plumage (with black barring and spots), round head with no ear tufts, yellow eyes, and black bill. Dark barring was present mainly on the forehead and crown, the breast, mantle, and wings; the face appeared clean white. These black marks were relatively thin indicating either an adult female or immature male bird. Full adult males will typically be much whiter and some may completely lack any black markings. Immature female snowy owls are extremely dark overall and typically look a dark gray from a distance due to the heavy amount of black barring on the body.</p> <p>During the short observation period, the owl simply stood on the ground, somewhat hunched over, and occasionally turned its head slowly toward the road. Otherwise, no other behavioral or movement was noted from the bird.</p> | | |
| Describe bird's call or song: None noted. | | |
| Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: The combination of large blocky size and large rounded head eliminates any aberrant white hawk. Great Horned Owls would be a dark brown overall with large ear tufts (though the tufts may be flattened at times). The Arctic Great Horned Owl (<i>Bubo virginianus wapacuthu</i>) is typically frosty white with dark gray patterning and would display ear tufts with a gray face. The presence of <i>wapacuthu</i> in Colorado would be a rarer event than the presence of a Snowy Owl. | | |
| What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? Have observed and banded numerous other individuals in Wisconsin and Minnesota. | | |
| List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): None | | |
| This report is from notes made during XX or after observation or later from memory | | |
| Date of written report: December 11, 2000 | | |

Reporting observer: Larry Semo

Signature:



Reporting Observer's Address: 9054 Dover Street

City: Westminster

State: Colorado

Zip: 80021

Send report to:
Colorado Birds Record Committee
c/o Bill Lisowsky
2919 Silverplume Dr.
Ft. Collins, Co. 80526