

CBC NAME: _____ COMPILER: _____ CBC DATE _____

OBSERVER WRITING THIS ACCOUNT & DATE: _____

1981-03
2006-45(R81)

Date of observation: 6/15/81 Time: 4⁰⁰ p.m. Weather: cool Sky Cover: clear

Duration of observation: 15-20 seconds Bird/Sun Orientation: bird flying away from sun.

Exact Location: Limber Pine Nature Trail Habitat: Cottonwood Grove and surrounding
Hwy 89 - Cache N.E. - Bear Lake meadow.
Summit.

Observers & Optical Equipment: Kent Van Wieren - 10x40 Zeiss Binoculars.
Roren Cartier Bushnell 7x35

PLEASE INCLUDE ALL NECESSARY AND IMPORTANT DETAILS OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION, AS SEEN IN THE FIELD. REMEMBER THAT AN ACCOMPANYING SKETCH OR PHOTOGRAPH IS AN EXCELLENT MEANS OF FURTHER DOCUMENTATION. BE THOROUGH AND PRECISE WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

SPECIES: Great Gray Owl NUMBER, AGE, SEX: one, Age & sex unknown.

Distance from bird(s): 100 feet Relative size of bird: noticeably larger than Red-tailed Hawk.

HEAD & NECK (Describe forehead, crown, auricular, malar region, median line etc.):
Extremely large, rounded head. Entire head gray.

EYE & LORES (Describe supercilium, ring, stripe, color etc.): _____

UPPER & LOWER MANDIBLES: _____ LEGS & FEET: _____

UPPERPARTS (Describe nape, back, rump, upper tail coverts etc.): _____

Entire upperparts light gray.

UNDERPARTS (Describe throat, belly, side, flanks, crissum etc.): _____

RECTRICES (Describe inner, middle, outer tail feathers; color pattern; shape etc.): _____

tail appeared fairly long for an owl.

WING (Describe color, length, shape, linings, bars, coverts, leading and trailing edges etc.)

wings extremely wide and wingspan appeared to be wider than typical Red-tail

VOCALIZATION: _____

BEHAVIOR: Seen flying at eye level, travelling from west to east along the edge of a meadow.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: Immediately after sighting the bird, both observers believed it to unquestionably be a Great Gray Owl. The 3 other species this bird could possibly have been can be ruled out for the following reasons: Great Horned Owl (adult) - Body coloration too gray for an adult Great Horned Owl. Wings far too long and wide

than typical Great Horned Owls.
Great Horned Owl (juvenile) - Though young Great Horned Owls can be gray in appearance, they are nowhere near as large nor do they have the same body shape as the bird observed.

Spotted Owl - (ruled out for following reasons): Body of Spotted Owl too slender and much shorter. Head of Spotted Owl too small. Spotted Owl wings not nearly as wide or long as those of species sighted.

Goshawk - (ruled out for following reasons): Overall size of species sighted was much larger than adult Goshawk. Wings of Goshawk much narrower, especially at wingtip and not nearly as wide as bird observed. Head shape of Goshawk much more slender and pointed than that of species seen. If this bird had been a Goshawk, wing movement would probably have been heard.

Mr Van Vuren has observed every larger North American owl in daytime flight previous to this sighting and strongly feels that this bird was considerably different than any species he has seen before.

Ms. Cartier spent all last summer helping on an owl study in Klamath National Forest in Northern California and saw Spotted, Barn and Great Horned owls in flight on many occasions.