

CBC NAME: _____ COMPILER: _____ CBC DATE: _____ 83-006

OBSERVER WRITING THIS ACCOUNT & DATE: Alan G. Grenon, March 10, 1983
 The following account is extracted from notes made within 5 hours of the sighting.

Date of observation: February 23, 1983 Time: ca. 2:30 p.m. Weather: occ. just below mostly cloudy
 Sky Cover: _____

Duration of observation: ca. one minute Bird/Sun Orientation: not seen slightly behind
sun behind clouds to right of bird (and slightly behind).

Exact Location: ca. 1 mile north of U.S. 89 Habitat: spruce-fir forests on a partly
Logan Canyon, on ridge east of Wood Camp open ridge-top, elevation
Hollow, ca. 10 miles E. of Logan, Cache Co., UT ca.

Observers & Optical Equipment: Alan G. Grenon, Chris Jones, Robert Schmidt,
no magnification available

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: pygmy nuthatch NUMBER, AGE, SEX: 1, age/sex unknown

Distance from bird(s): 10 feet Relative size of bird: similar in size to nearby mountain chickadees and red-breasted nuthatches

HEAD & NECK (Describe forehead, crown, auricular, malar region, median line etc.): forehead and head dark (head light poor), gray-black appearing, cheeks creamy white (contiguous with throat)

EYE & LORES (Describe supercilium, ring, stripe, color etc.): eye and lores dark, no eye-line visible

UPPER & LOWER MANDIBLES: dark, long and imm. as red-breasted nuthatch LEGS & FEET: not seen

UPPERPARTS (Describe nape, back, rump, upper tail coverts etc.): upper parts appeared to be overall dark

UNDERPARTS (Describe throat, belly, side, flanks, crissum etc.): the throat, belly, and sides were a rather uniform creamy color (off-white), not rusty-red

RECTRICES (Describe inner, middle, outer tail feathers; color pattern; shape etc.): short, as in red-breasted nuthatch, colors not seen.

WING (Describe color, length, shape, linings, bars, coverts, leading and trailing edges etc.): dark gray - seeming above, no contrasting marks, elliptical, as in red-breasted nuthatches

VOCALIZATION: called continually, high, short, musical notes of varying rapidity and loudness, totally lacking nasal qualities - very different from red-breasted calls, which were heard

BEHAVIOR: In a mixed flock with mountain chickadees and red-breasted nuthatches, perched crosswise on the thin upper trunk of a conifer (fir, probably), calling, then flew on with the flock about a minute later as they foraged along. It was not seen feeding.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: Unfortunately, the major part of the identification was vocal - I have heard many red-breasted nuthatches in many situations, and this bird resembled none of them. It did resemble the recorded pygmy nuthatch calls I have listened to. I have seen pygmy nuthatches elsewhere under better visual conditions, and nothing about this bird was seen which would eliminate that species.

The Archaic Name of the Pygmy Nuthatch is ...