COMMON NAME: Boreal Owl
SCIENTIFIC NAME: Aegolius funereus
DATE: 4 April 1999
TIME: 9:15 p.m.
LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED: 1 Hour
NUMBER: 1
AGE: ?
SEX: ?
LOCATION: Head of Hell's Kitchen Canyon, a drainage into Franklin Basin in Logan Canyon
LATLON: 41° 57' 39" N 111° 36' 37" W
ELEVATION: 8,350'
DISTANCE TO BIRD: 50'
WEATHER: Clear, no wind, cold (4°F)
LIGHT CONDITIONS: Dark, no moon.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF BIRD:

We did not get a visual sighting of the bird, but did hear its call, which was a pattern of rapid "hoo" increasing in pitch slightly but consistent in rhythm. (This is unlike Western Screech Owl which increases in tempo.) See section on Similar Species.

We stuck into the site, arriving after darkness had fallen—it was so dark we could not see the broken ski trail at our feet without headlamps.
BEHAVIOR: Spontaneously calling as we skied up the canyon. After we played a tape of Rough-legged Owl, it moved closer, though we never got visual sightings amongst the trees.

HABITAT: Ridgeline with scattered aspen and conifer stands.

SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW WERE THEY ELIMINATED: Call was distinctly different from: 1) N. Pygmy Owl (which is a constant rhythm of evenly spaced and evenly pitched whistled notes) 2) Western Screech Owl (whose call increases in tempo like a ball dropped on a table) or 3) Flammulated Owl which has even, rapid, and long spaced call notes. Our owl gave out rapid series of "hoo" sounds which definitely increased in pitch. We had studied tapes before we went to find it and were very sure of the id. It also responded to our tape of a Rough-legged Owl by coming closer.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILAR SPECIES: Have located and observed other owls in mountains and valleys of Cache County, including W. Screech Owl, Flammulated Owl, N. Pygmy Owl, Great Horned Owl, etc.


DESCRIPTION FROM: NOTES TAKEN AT TIME OF SIGHTING __, NOTES MADE LATER __

FROM MEMORY __

OBSERVER: Bryan Dixon

ADDRESS: 10 Heritage Cove

CITY: Logan

STATE: UT

ZIP: 84321

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:

Bill Mosslich, Stuart Reynolds got visual sightings the previous night.

DATE PREPARED: 11 April 1999

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL: PHOTO __, DRAWING __, TAPE __, OTHER __

( Ron Bayel recorded the call.)

RETURN THIS FORM TO: UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 1042
CEDAR CITY, UT 84721-1042