

IOWA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS DOCUMENTATION FORM

What species? Long-eared owl How many? 1Location: County Webster #94 Block Brushy Creek #330Location in detail Jack-pine plantation in the west-central portion of the Brushy Creek recreation areaHabitat? Jack-pine plantation about 20 years old.When? date? June 3, 1987 Time: 0940 to 0950Observer? Name: Douglas A. ReevesAddress: Route 1, Ledges Road, Boone, IA 50036Telephone: 515-432-2823

Description of bird(s): include size, shape, detailed description of all parts including bill, eye, head, neck, back, wings, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet; also voice and behavior. Use additional sheets if necessary.

The bird identified here was a medium sized owl. IT was young and still covered by quite a bit of down. I believe the nest was located about 20 yards from where I saw this bird. The owl sat in a very "upright" posture rather than the more stoop-shouldered appearance of the barred,^{and} great-horned owls. IT somewhat resembled a great-horned owl except that it was smaller, slimmer, and had a very dark (almost black looking) face. There were at least 2 other birds (owls) in the immediate area but I was unable to identify them. They flew as I approached.

In another part of the pine planting I found a similar aged great-horned owl. The bird was much larger, lighter colored (especially in the facial disk) and had a generally plumper appearance. Also, the ear-tufts of the great-horned owl had not developed as far as the long-eared owls.

Similar species and how eliminated:

The great-horned owl looks similar but is much larger, has a lighter colored face (at that age at least) and is more stoop-shouldered on a perch.

Did anyone have reservations about identification? If so, explain:

Viewing conditions: lighting, distance and how measured, optical equipment used. Bright, sunny day, used Swift binoculars (Audubon model 8.5X44). Owl was less than 20 yards away on a limb about 15 feet off the ground.

Previous experience with this species and other similar ones:

1). We have had 3 long-eared owls here for rehabilitation (adults) and have released them after considerable time here.

2). Dave Newhouse left photographs of long-eared owls in a nest in Lucas County. One of those photos looks almost exactly like the bird I saw.

BREEDING BEHAVIOR: Give all details observed that indicate that the species breeds on the block. If nest, eggs, young, or courtship display were observed, describe in detail.

This was a fledgling bird, incapable of sustained flight.

Update - 6/5/87 This morning I returned to the site and went through the pine plantation very systematically. I have found the nest and have several pellets (castings) and part of an egg shell I collected on site. The pellets are long and narrow (average about 1.5" long X $\frac{9}{16}$ " wide) which is quite typical for the species. The nest was 22 feet up in a jack pine. There was whitewash on the tree and pellets scattered in the branches up to the nest. Unfortunately I could not find the owl - I had the camera this time.

If books or other birders were consulted before writing up the documentation, please list them here:

None

How long after observation were field notes made?

I made notes AT THE SITE

How long after observation was this form completed?

About 6 hours.