

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: RUFFED GROUSE | BONASA UMBELLUS
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): SEPTEMBER 28th 1991Number of birds seen: ONE Sex: FEMALE Plumage: FALL ADULTLocality: NORTH OF POT CREEK, NEAR UTAH STATE LINE Elevation: 7400'Nearest town: VERMILION, UTAH County: MOHAVETime(s) observed: 1:30 → 2 pmDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 30 MINUTES

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

DAN BRIDGES, DUANE NELSON, NORM ORTHAL, VIC ZERBI, COEN DEXTER, LARRY SANDERS

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

BRIGHT SUNLIGHT, BUT IN CANOPY SHADEOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 10x BINOCULARSDistance, and how measured: 5 YARDS (ESTIMATED)

If photographed, type of equipment and film: _____

Who else photographed the bird? DUANE NELSON

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

SITTING IN SMALL TREE FOR MOST OF THE TIME, WE THEN FLUSHED IT TO A
SPRUCE TREE NEARBY.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

MY FIRST IMPRESSION WAS OF A SMALL GROUSE WITH A VERY NOTICEABLE CREST.
WHEN WE FLUSHED IT HIGHER INTO A TREE, I ESTIMATED ITS BULK AS 2/3rd OF
A BLUE GROUSE - WE SAW MANY OF THEM IN SIMILAR TREES DURING THE MORNING.

Description (continued):

SOME BLUE GROUSE OCCASIONALLY SHOWED A CREST, BUT THE RUFFED GROUSE SHOWED A PERMANENT, MUCH MORE PRONOUNCED, CREST. THE TAIL WAS STRONGLY CROSS-BARRED WITH A BLACK TAIL BAND - EXCEPT FOR THE CENTRAL TWO TAIL FEATHERS ON THE UPPER TAIL. THESE TIPS WERE GRAYISH, WHICH MADE ME THINK THE BIRD WAS A FEMALE. THE BIRD HAD THE BLACK (RUFF) FEATHERS ON THE SIDES OF THE NECK. THE LEGS WERE NOT FEATHERED AS FAR DOWN AS BLUE GROUSE. SMALLER BILL THAN BLUE GROUSE. ALLOWED A VERY MUCH CLOSER APPROACH (AS CLOSE AS 6-8') THAN ALL THE BLUE GROUSE. Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

BIRD MADE SOME TYPICAL GROUSE CLUCKING SOUNDS, HIGHER PITCHED THAN BLUE GROUSE.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

MOUNTAINSIDE WITH MIXED CONIFEROUS AND ASPEN TREES; ALSO WITH SMALLER BUSHES.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

BLUE GROUSE - SMALLER SIZE, DIFFERENT TAIL PATTERN, CREST, BEHAVIOR etc.

SPRUCE GROUSE - DIFFERENT TAIL PATTERN, CREST, WRONG HABITAT, NECK PATTERN etc.

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

HAVE SEEN RUFFED GROUSE TWICE BEFORE. AM PARTICULAR WITH BLUE GROUSE, ESPECIALLY AFTER SEEING ABOUT 50 ON THIS SAME DAY. NEVER SEEN SPRUCE GROUSE.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation:

b) after observation: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory X.
Date and time report was written: OCTOBER 3rd, 1991 at 9pm

Reporting observer: PETER R. GENT Signature: Peter R. Gent

Address: 55 S 35th ST, BOULDER, CO 80303.

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,
CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Ruffed Grouse | Bonasa umbellus
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date: September 28, 1991Number of birds seen: 2 (1 by all) Larry Sanders Sex: Female Plumage: gray phase adult?
1st bird - poorly seen 2nd bird - well seenLocality: Hoy Mountain Elevation: 7850'
2000' FSL, 1900' FSL Section 25 - 9N - 104W
700' FSL, 2800' FSL in large section
700 feet from Utah borderNearest town: Vernal, Utah (see map over) County: MoffatTime observed: 1st bird 11 AM 2nd bird 1-1:30 PMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 30 minutesOther observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):
Larry Sanders found both birds. Larry + Barb Sanders (Englewood), Norm Eckel (Arvada);
Coen + Brenda Dexter (Cotton east of Grand Junction); Peter Gent (Boulder); Vic Zerbi (Glenwood Springs);
Duane Nelson (Greeley); Dan Bridges (Aurora)Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)
None

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

Good - Sun high in the sky and we could walk all around the birdOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Everyone had binocularsDistance, and how measured: 40 feet → 15 feet Then bird flew up on limb 100 feet awayIf photographed, type of equipment and film: telescopic lensWho ~~saw~~ photographed the bird? Duane Nelson

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

1st bird flew. We could not refind it.
2nd bird was walking on the ground. Within 5 minutes all of us had gathered around
it and surrounded the bird, so she proceeded to climb up the bare branches of a
thick clump of serviceberry bushes to 5' off the ground and just sat for 20 minutes.
We finally forced it to fly up to a branch in a nearby fir. A very tame bird!

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

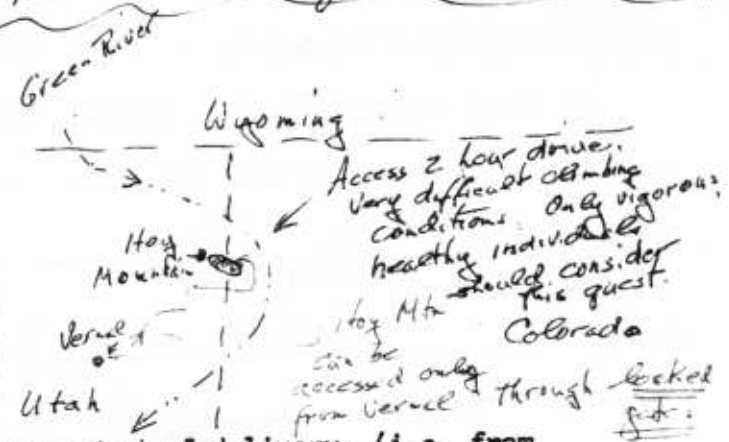
This was a good-sized grouse but definitely smaller than the 40 Blue Grouse
we had been flushing up. A plump bird with a much shorter neck than Blue Grouse,
but tail nearly as long. Crest on top of head much more prominent than Blue Grouse.
The wide dark band at the end of the tail was the most obvious difference
from the gray band at the end of Blue Grouse's tail in this area. The thing
that surprised me the most with this gray phase Ruffed Grouse was the
very, very narrow, almost thread-like black bands on the upper part of the tail.

(over)

Description (continued): From the illustrations in the piece guide, bands on the tail to be much wider, and much more prominent, that this was a female, but the dark band was complete on the bottom of the tail.

The dark band at the tip was absent on the top of the middle of the tail, which indicates that this was a female, but the dark band was complete on the bottom of the tail.

The back was brownish gray with prominent white streaks. The breast was pale white, but with so many ^{pale} brown bars that they overall color seemed pale brown. On the chest there was some definite reddish-brown highlights to these bars. The black ruffs on the sides of the neck were quite noticeable. The head was brownish gray without any distinctive markings except the prominent crest. The legs were feathered but not nearly as much as the Blue Grouse.



Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

The bird clucked twice but not nearly as loudly as the Blue Grouse we had been flushing. When flushed most Ruffed Grouse really burst forward. Our bird tentatively and gingerly flew up to the branch in the fir tree.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:
 Low mountains. Valley 6800', Top of Hoy Mountain 8800'. On the north flank of these mountains there are some mixed coniferous-deciduous woods with rather dense growth of bushes locally near springs. Both of the Ruffed Grouse were found in slightly wetter areas. Both grouse species may be feeding on serviceberries.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?
 Blue Grouse are larger, have longer necks, are darker grey but the most noticeable difference is the terminal tail band. Blue Grouse in this area all have a prominent grey tail band that is obvious when they fly. Ruffed Grouse have a black terminal tail band. On perched birds, Ruffed Grouse's crest is much more prominent and Ruffed Grouse have black ruffs on the sides of their neck. Ruffed Grouse have white streaking on the backs which Blue Grouse do not have.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?
 We saw 40+ Blue Grouse intermixed with these 2 Ruffed Grouse. I used to hunt Ruffed Grouse in New England as a year-ager. That was the red phase which always burst forward from the ground and landed on the ground. This is the first gray phase Ruffed Grouse I have ever seen.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) ~~at time of observation:~~ 1st State bird - Collected by Bob Hornbroke Oct 24, 1988
 2 birds collected in Sept 1989 also by Colorado personnel Rick Huffman + Tom Remington. All collected at Hoy Mountain

before and after observation: National Geographic and Goleta Guide
 Birds of North America

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory X
 Date and time report was written: September 30, 1991

Reporting observer: L. W. Dan Bridges Signature: L. W. Dan Bridges
 Address: 1925 S. Vaughn Way #207 Aurora Co. 80014

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