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#### NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL NESTS IN NORTHEASTERN OREGON

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Little is known about the Northern Pygmy-Owl (*Glauucidium gnoma*) and nests have been reported infrequently (Bendire 1883; Calderwood 1889; Holman 1926; Braly 1930; Norton and Holt 1982; Holt and Norton 1986). Because so little is known of the pygmy-owl in North America, we are reporting our findings for two nest sites in Union County in northeastern Oregon.

On 17 April 1981 a pygmy-owl nest was found in an old Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) cavity 10 m off the ground in a dead Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). The nest tree was 39 cm dbh (diameter at breast height) and had a broken top. The tree was on the edge of a meadow at the base of a 63% slope in a mature, unlogged stand of Douglas fir with a canopy closure of 81%. The stand was 100-200 m wide, 2 km long, and surrounded by meadows; adjacent forest stands were within 150 m. The nest tree was 110 m from a stream. The outcome of this nesting attempt was unknown.

On 21 April 1986 a second pygmy-owl nest was found 12 m above the ground in a 52 cm dbh live grand fir (*Abies grandis*). The nest cavity was probably excavated by a Williamson's Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*) originally, based on general appearances (Bull 1980). The tree was broken off at 15 m height.

The second nest failed sometime before 15 May, although fresh pellets were found regularly through 7 May. We climbed the tree on 15 May and found three or four eggs in the cavity; at least one was cracked. The cavity opening was 4.8 cm high × 4 cm wide. The cavity was 18 cm deep × 32 cm wide with five cm of wood between the outside of the tree and the inside of the cavity. The tree was 41 cm dia at the cavity entrance, and the tree was hollow with a shell of sapwood surrounding the cavity.

The nest tree was located 15 m from a stream on an

east-facing 58% slope. The surrounding stand within 100 m was unlogged, old-growth grand fir with 87% canopy closure and three canopy layers, the highest at 40 m. Outside the immediate stand but within a 500 m rad of the nest, 86% of the forested land had been recently logged (partial removal).

Pellets and prey remains were found under eight trees, which we called roosts. We assumed that these pellets were deposited by the female because the female keeps the nest hole clean of old prey remains (Mikkola 1970; Schonn 1980). The roosts were 10-17 m uphill from the nest tree. Five of the roosts were grand fir (four live trees and one dead tree), and three were live Douglas fir. The dbh of these roosts were 22-50 cm ( $\bar{x}$  = 35 cm).

We found 44 pellets and prey remains under the roosts between 21 April-7 May. The length and width of pellets averaged 27 × 11 mm, respectively. Skulls, jaws, or other remains of four voles (*Microtus* spp.), four shrews (*Sorex* spp.), one Heather Vole (*Phenacomys intermedius*), two Deer Mice (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), 10 insects, and 12 sparrows were found. Many pellets contained no identifiable skulls. Males frequently eat the forepart of the body of a small animal and take the posterior part to the nest (Mikkola 1970), thus few remains of skulls were found in the female's pellets.

Our observations are similar to those reported for *G. passerinum* (Scherzinger 1974; Schonn 1980). More information is needed on nest site characteristics of the Northern Pygmy-Owl to understand habitat requirements and potential impacts of land management activities on the species.

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**Request for Assistance**—Snowy Owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*) are being banded and color-coded RED in central Wisconsin. The RED color-coding schemes being used are as follows: 1) RED X on the nape, dorsal surface of the right wing near the tip, dorsal surface of the rectrices near the tip; 2) RED O on the nape, dorsal surface of the left wing near the tip, dorsal surface of the rectrices near the tip; and 3) RED X on the nape, SOLID RED tips of right primaries, SOLID RED on left half of tail. A total of 15 Snowy Owls have been banded and color-coded since 10 December 1986. **Report any sightings, including marking schemes observed, to Wisconsin Foundation for Wildlife Research, Inc., 9201 Rock Inn Road, Arpin, WI 54410, telephone (715) 652-2510.**

**Request for Assistance**—The George Miksch Sutton Avian Research Center (GMSARC) is releasing Bald Eagles in east-central Oklahoma. The eagles are independent and begin to disperse from the release site in late June. The eagles are banded with a standard FWS aluminum band on the left leg and a white color band with black alphanumeric codes A-01 through A-99 on the right leg. In addition each eagle carries a radio-transmitter in the 216 MHz range.

Three previous sightings of hacked eagles suggest that these eagles can be expected to disperse and summer in the area of the upper Great Plains to the Great Lakes and perhaps into Canada. A researcher will be afield searching for radio-tagged eagles summering in the area. Anyone sighting immature eagles in this area, especially before locally produced eagles fledge, should 1) look for the right tarsal color band and report all information including band number, date and location to the Bird Banding Lab and 2) ASAP contact **GMSARC, P.O. Box 2007, Bartlesville, OK (918) 336-7778 collect** (leave a message on the recorder after hours). Cooperators with 216 MHz are needed.

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