
News, Notes, Comments

Please Note:

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(The last issue of *NABB*), for the Western Regional News page 199, **Walter Sakai** is listed as the only author. Please check the original submission on page 199 for a complete list of authors for this submission.

Full-body pale plumage variation in a wild Northern Saw-whet Owl

At 0203 on 5 Nov 2005 a hatch-year female Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) with aberrant pale plumage (Figure 1) was captured during normal banding operations at Cedar Grove Ornithological Research Station in eastern Wisconsin. The entire plumage appeared paler and much lighter brown in color than is typical for this species (Rasmussen et al. 2020). Such plumage variation has not been described for this species (Rasmussen et al. 2020). The bird was banded with a USGS band (854-35695) with morphometric measurements taken (wing 136 mm, tail 69 mm, mass 92.4 g) and released the following morning. There have been no subsequent recaptures or reported sightings of the bird.



Figure 1. Comparison of atypical pale brown plumage variant (left) with the typical dark brown plumage in Northern Saw-whet Owls (right). Photo credit John Bowers.

References

Rasmussen, J. L., S. G. Sealy, and R. J. Cannings. 2020. Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*), version 1.0, in *Birds of the World* (A. F. Poole, editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY.

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