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#### OCCURRENCE AND FIRST NEST RECORD OF FLAMMULATED OWLS IN MONTANA

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The Flammulated Owl (*Otus flammeolus*) is reported to occur in Montana during annual migration (AOU 1983). Wright (1976) reported the first specimen record of a Flammulated Owl for Montana (UMZM 15231) and listed two other site records for the state. Skaar et al. (1985) reported five verified and one questionable Flammulated Owl records for Montana which included all previous records. In 1985 and 1986 calling Flammulated Owls

Table 1. Reports of Flammulated Owls for Montana, 1962-1986.

| DATE                          | LOCATION   | COMMENTS   |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Summer 1962                   | Flathead Co., Head of Lake McDonald, Glacier National Park | First state record; road kill  |
| January 1965 <sup>a</sup>     | Lewis and Clark Co., west of Helena                        | Found helpless in snowstorm; later died                                |
| October 1971                  | Ravalli Co., at Darby game bird farm                       | First specimen record; found injured; later died                       |
| 4 September 1975              | Missoula Co., downtown Missoula                            | First nesting evidence; recently fledged bird; injured; later released |
| 4 September 1979              | Ravalli Co., Cow Creek, Woodside                           | Found injured; later died  |
| 27 September 1980             | Missoula Co., Grant Creek, Missoula                        | Road kill  |
| 21 November 1981 <sup>b</sup> | Flathead Co., east of Bigfork                              | Observed perched in tree with vole in talons                           |
| 20 December 1981 <sup>c</sup> | Flathead Co., West Glacier                                 | Observed chasing passerines at bird feeder                             |
| 11 August 1982                | Missoula Co., west of Missoula                             | Fledgling found by logger; later released                              |
| 20 August 1985                | Granite Co., Rock Creek road, 8 miles from I-90            | Found injured; later released  |
| 15 July 1986                  | Missoula Co., Blanchard Lookout, Blanchard Creek           | First nest record; snag felled by logger                               |

<sup>a</sup> Reported by Pat McKinney.

<sup>b</sup> Reported by Robin Magadino.

<sup>c</sup> Reported by B. Reilly McClelland (2nd hand).

(presumably males) were heard in Missoula County (R. Escano and S. Reel, pers. comm.). We report the first confirmed nest record, previous evidence of nesting and additional sight records which include four winter records of Flammulated Owls in Montana.

On 15 July 1986 a Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) snag was cut for firewood near Blanchard Lookout, Blanchard Creek, Missoula County. A cavity in the snag contained three nestling Flammulated Owls. Two of the nestlings were partially feathered and approximately equal in size and age, while the third nestling was smaller and mostly in downy plumage. No information concerning habitat surrounding the nest area was noted.

Table 1 lists all known previous Flammulated Owl records for Montana. The Flammulated Owl is considered to be strictly insectivorous (Ross 1969; Winter 1974; Marshall 1967, 1978) and is generally believed to winter south of the United States. Four previous sight records (October, November, December, January) in Montana (Table 1) are of particular interest because of seasonal occurrence and as an indicator that vertebrate prey may be taken given the time of year. The fact that owls reported here were seen at midday during late fall/early winter and associated with a vole spp. and small passerines (Table 1), help to support the previous statement.

To our knowledge there are no published records of Flammulated Owls preying on vertebrates nor wintering in the northern Rocky Mountains. Likely, these small owls occur throughout western Montana in suitable habitat but have simply been overlooked because of their habits.

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## NEST SITE COMPETITION BETWEEN OSPREYS AND CANADA GEESE AT LAKE ALMANOR, CALIFORNIA

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The Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) and the Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) nest in broken-top trees near water through much of northwestern North America. Canada Geese have been reported using Osprey nests (Yocum 1952; Geis 1956; Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959; Craighead and Stockstad 1961; Garber 1972) and artificial platforms constructed for Ospreys (Henny et al. 1978; W. D. Carrier, pers. comm.) in many areas.

Reports of interactions at nest sites between the two species are few. Fannin (1894) reported an unusual case in which both Ospreys and Canada Geese defended a nest containing eggs of both species. Flath (1972) observed conflicts at Osprey nest sites, including one case in which Ospreys apparently evicted geese that had begun nesting before Ospreys returned from migration. Another Osprey nest received double usage during a year with mild spring