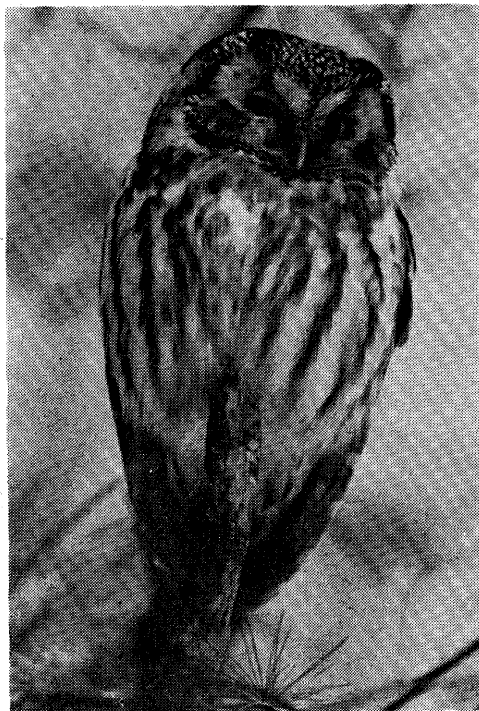


PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES
1. Boreal Owl



—Photo by Dr. A. A. Allen, Courtesy Bird Photographs Inc.

The Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) shown in the above photograph was discovered 17 March 1962 near Pulaski, by Margaret Rusk, as reported (together with a summary of ten previous New York State records) in the *Kingbird*, 12(1):25-26, May 1962. The photograph was taken by Dr. Arthur A. Allen the following day. The statement by Geoffrey Carleton (*Audubon Field Notes*, 16(3):315, June 1962) that the bird was "found dead" is an error. Since Rusk's account, one other Boreal Owl record from New York has been published: a bird seen and photographed 22 and 29 February 1964 in Hamlin State Park, Monroe County (J. Foster, *Kingbird*, 14(2):91-92, May 1964).

This is the first in a series of photographs of New York State rarities. The purpose of this series is twofold: to place on record those photographs that already exist, and to encourage the taking of such photographs in the future. It is not my intention here to discuss the pros and cons of collecting, but to point out that, in this day and age when the substantiation of a state record by a specimen is usually out of the question, photographs provide a satisfactory substitute. In fact, except possibly where subspecific identifi-

cation is desirable, photographs may be preferable. Specimens can be, and frequently have been, lost. Once a recognizable photograph has been published, however, it becomes a matter of public record.

Peter W. Post, 575 West 183 Street, New York 10033.

1965 BOREAL OWL RECORD



—Photo by Allen E. Kemnitzer

On February 24, 1965, Richard O'Hara and I observed a Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) perched in a huge tangle of wild grapevines located near the southern edge of the Lake Shore Golf Club. When first discovered, the owl was less than ten feet from the ground on the south side of the tangle, and in good light, only partly concealed by vines. It was possible to get an excellent close-up view of the Boreal Owl, revealing all the important field marks: the small size, the distinctive black facial framing, the white-spotted forehead, and the light-colored bill (see accompanying photograph).

This occurrence marks the second consecutive year that this species has been reported in Monroe County. Last year's Boreal Owl was first discovered on February 22, 1964, in Hamlin State Park, and observed for the last time, in the same location, a week later (*Kingbird*, 14(2):91-92, May 1964).

More than ten persons viewed this year's Boreal Owl at close range during the three-day period it was recorded. It was never seen to fly or move about, although its perching spot in the grapevine tangle varied from day to day. Throughout this time the owl exhibited its characteristic lack of fear of human beings, showed no alarm, and often closed its eyes in the presence of observers and photographers moving about less than six feet away.