

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.

This rare northern visitor was last seen late in the afternoon of February 26, during a heavy wind and snowstorm. The following morning, Saturday, brought out many birders but the owl had left the tangle. A thorough search of the surrounding area failed to turn up any further trace of the Boreal Owl.

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*Ed. Note:* This latest record and photograph of a Boreal Owl in New York State was received after the preceding article had been set in type.

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