

Northern Pygmy-Owl

(*Glaucidium gnoma*)

FIELD MARKS: Round-headed, eyes yellow, bill yellow, yellow/green, yellow/black, or yellow/white. Eyebrows distinctive white. Feathers extending from back of eyebrows can be raised—like tufts—when alarmed. True facial disk absent. Head finely spotted. Ventrally, dark mottled head and neck, giving way to white chest, belly, and sides, with vertical brown streaking. Dorsally, dark mottling with conspicuously long tail. Has conspicuous false eyes or eye marks on back of head. **SIZE:** six to seven inches. **WEIGHT:** two to three ounces. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** None. **HABITAT:** Not well known, most often seen in mixed fir forests, but can be found from river bottoms to timberline. **VOICE:** Two

songs. One is "Toot, toot, toot..." given rapidly six to eight times. Song is similar to that of saw-whet owl and the two are difficult to distinguish. This song is most often heard in fall, winter, and the early part of the breeding season. The second song, "Toot (pause) toot..." is the typical breeding season call. **NATURAL HISTORY:** Begins breeding in April. Nests in woodpecker holes and possibly natural cavities. Clutch size three to five. Incubation not well known, but probably around 25 days. Young fledge at approximately 30 days. Probably resident year-round, with some elevational movements. **FOOD HABITS:** Small birds, mammals, insects, and probably a few reptiles and amphibians. Small birds may be an important part of its diet. **STATUS:** Listed as a species of special concern by the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

