

# Nat Theo Club

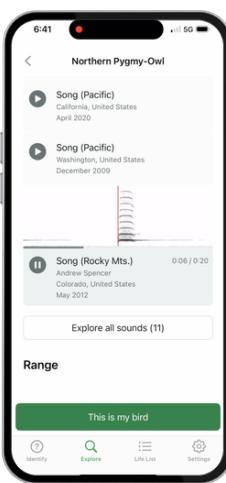
## FIELD NOTES

ISSUE #91

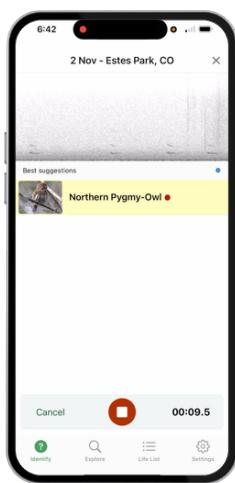


### Pygmy-Owl

Northern Pygmy-owls are not only surprising because of their size (6-7 inches, around as tall as an iPhone), but because they are diurnal owls, meaning they are active and hunt during the day.



Playing the owl's song from my phone



Switching to Sound ID mode to confirm the owl calling back to me.



### HAVE YOU HAD A BIRD SURPRISE YOU?

This week I was delighted to have a bird I've long wanted to see land right in front of me. I had only seen a Northern Pygmy-owl once before. A few years ago, a wildlife photographer was taking photos of one and kindly showed me where it was in a tree. I have always wanted to find one on my own. This week while on a writing trip in the mountains, I was sitting on the front deck of a cabin watching the sunrise when a small bird landed in the grass right in front of me. The grass was tall and I could not quite see what it was, but thought it looked like a small owl. The bird was brown with white speckles. Could it be a Northern Pygmy-owl?

It flew off up into a tree before I could get a closer look. I really wanted to know if it was indeed a Northern Pygmy-owl. I could no longer see it, and it was not making noise to help me identify it by sound. So I tried something I never had. I opened the Merlin Bird ID app on my phone, and typed in the name of the owl. I played its call from my phone and turned the volume up. Sure enough, the real Northern Pygmy-owl began responding from the tree above! I was delighted to have identified the owl and to know I truly had seen and heard a very special bird I've long wanted to find.

I was surprised and delighted when the Northern Pygmy-owl responded to the recorded owl call on my phone. It confirmed the owl was there. Birds move around a lot and might not be where we hope to find them. But God is always near and always answers when we call. Psalm 91:15 says, "He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him." If we make a bird call, we don't know if the bird will answer, or sometimes if it's even around. But God is always close by and he hears and answers us. We never have to wonder if God hears us, he always does.