

DULUTH--A chance recording at UMD of the calls of a captive hawk owl has been included in the "Field Guide to Western Bird Songs," a 33 1/3 RPM record recently prepared by Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Dr. Pershing B. Hofslund, a UMD professor of biology, explained that this is the only known recording of the hawk owl's call. "It is a bird of the Arctic," he said, "and people rarely see them in this (Minnesota) area.

The hawk owl used for the recording was brought to the UMD biology department in November, 1960. A junior high school student had found the bird wounded in woods in the Pequaywan Lakes area northeast of Duluth.

"The owl called almost continually during the two hours we had it before the bird died," recalled Dr. Hofslund. "This was very unusual since the owl's calling is done largely during the mating season and at night."

The call was tape recorded by Dr. John C. Green, assistant professor of geology, and his wife Janet while Dr. Hofslund was teaching a class. Dr. Hofslund took the recording with him to Cornell in the spring of 1961 and granted the eastern university's request to use it.

Dr. Hofslund said there have been reports of large numbers of hawk owls in the region since this fall. "They usually are seen singly, but as many as five and six have been sighted at one time," he said.

We've had a number of northern birds of prey on the scene this year," continued Hofslund. "A good many snowy owls have been reported and its still a bit early for the normal migration.

"Then there have been more goshawks sighted this fall than in the last 10 years. This indicates that the rodents these birds feed on are thinning out and causing heavy southernly migration," concluded Hofslund.