

1980-01

Species: Pileated woodpecker  
(Vernacular name)Urocyon pileatus  
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): 17 APRIL, 1980 Time Bird Seen: 1130 to 1132Locality: VERDRE CREEK - BLUE MOUNTAIN RANCH - 11 MILES SOUTHWEST OF MONTICELLO, SAN JUAN COUNTY, UTAH  
Nearest town, county and state: UTAHOptical equipment: 7X35 BINOCULARS

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: UNKNOWN Plumage: ADULTLight conditions: SUN OVERHEAD - SKY WAS CLEARDistance from bird, and how measured: 50 METERS TO 500 METERS MEASURED BY PACING FROM 1ST SIGHTING TO PLACE BIRD WAS LAST OBSERVED.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

WOODPECKER WAS FLYING IN TYPICAL UNDOULATING FLIGHT ABOUT 10 METERS ABOVE PONDEROSA FOREST CANOPY & APPROXIMATELY 50 METERS FROM ME. THE BIRD DESCENDED TO PONDEROSA PINE & GAMBEL'S OAK ALONG A CREEK APPROXIMATELY 500 METERS AWAY. FLIGHT WAS FROM SOUTHWEST TO NORTHEAST.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

THE WOODPECKER WAS FLYING OVER PONDEROSA PINE (Pinus ponderosa) & GAMBEL'S OAK (Quercus gambelii) & LANDED IN THE SAME HABITAT.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

I WAS IN COMPANY WITH JORDAN C. PEDERSON (GAME MANAGER, CENTRAL REGION, UTAH DIV. WILDL. RES., 1381 E. 700 S. PROVO UTAH 84601) I TOLD HIM ABOUT THE BIRD BUT HE WAS

marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

I HAD JUST RELEASED AN ABBERT'S SQUIRREL & WAS OBSERVING SOME GRACE'S WARBLERS WHEN THE WOODPECKER FLEW INTO MY VIEW. THE BIRD WAS ABOUT THE SIZE OF A COMMON CROW & THE WINGS WERE WIDER THAN THE BODY LENGTH & VERY BROAD, THE WING LININGS & FLANKS WERE WHITE, BELLY & WING TOPS & TAIL WERE BLACK. TOP OF THE HEAD WAS RED, WHAT APPEARED TO BE A CREST COULD BE OBSERVED FOLDED BACK ALONG THE NECK. THE BEAK, TAIL & UNDULATING FLIGHT PATTERN WERE INDICATIVE OF A WOODPECKER. MY ANGLE OF VIEW WAS FROM 30°-45° AS THE BIRD FLEW FROM SOUTHWEST TO NORTHEAST (I WAS FACING SOUTH WHEN I FIRST SAW IT).

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

NONE

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

OTHER WOODPECKERS IN THE AREA ARE: COMMON FLICKER, Hairy & Downy WOODPECKERS, WILLIAMSON'S & YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS. ONLY WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER APPROACHES THE COLOR PATTERN & NONE ARE NEAR THE SIZE OF THE OBSERVED WOODPECKER.

I HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH ALL OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED WOODPECKERS, HOWEVER THIS IS THE FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH THE PILEATED.

Prior experience with this and similar species: UTAH RECORDS:

- 1 - BLUFF, SAN JUAN CO. - 21 MAY, 1892 (COLLECTED BY C.P. ROWLEY)
- 3 - POOREVELT, DUCHESNE CO. - 10 AUG. 1943 - OBS. - W.H. BEHLE & J. GISHELIN
- 1 - AQUARIUS PLATEAU, GARFIELD CO. - 10 AUG. 1952 - 3 OBS. - W.H. BEHLE, J.B. BUSHMAN, C.M. GREENGLASS
- 1 - " " " 26 AUG. 1952
- 1 - BLANDING, SAN JUAN CO. 06 SEPT. 1950 - OBS. BY C.L. HAYWARD

This report was written from notes made during  after  observation; from memory

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