

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Acorn Woodpecker

Scientific Name: *Melanerpes formicivorus*

Date: 8 May 1985 Time: ~ 1430

Length of time observed: 2-3 min.

Number: 1 Age: adult

Sex: ?

Location: Zion National Park, north end of Pine Valley;
T39S, R11W, sec. 34 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Lat/long: 19

Elevation (if known): 7200 ft.

Distance to bird: ~ 20-30 meters.

Light conditions: good, sun to our side.

Optical equipment: 8x40 binocs.

Weather: Partly cloudy, 70°.

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

subject bird was about the size + shape of a sapsucker.

The plumage was mostly black, except for a white area extending from the upper breast & side of neck below cheek up between the bill & eye & across the forehead. An area around the base of the bill was black. The belly & rump were white. The crown was red. I did not observe the white wing patches, but Jim Tucker mentioned seeing them when the bird flew.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: not heard

Behavior: Bird was perched on the side of a ponderosa pine snag & was being harassed by a pygmy nuthatch. The snag had several holes which were being used as nesting cavities by violet-green swallows.

Habitat: Juniper, pinyon, & scattered clumps of ponderosa pine. Sagebrush & oak understory.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

No other species is even remotely similar.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I've observed this species on numerous occasions in California & Arizona.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

none.

Significance of record in this area or the state: First documented sight record for state, 4 previous sight records are questionable.

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

Description from notes taken at time of sighting ___ notes made later from memory ___

Observer: Steven Hedges Signature: Steven Hedges

Address: 889 S. Cedar Knolls W.
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Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Jim Tucker - initial observer
Bob Bond

Date prepared: 23 May 1985

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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