

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

9-1989

Common Name: White-headed Woodpecker Scientific Name: *Picoides albolarvatus*

Date: Oct. 12, 1989 Time: Noon - 2 PM Length of time observed: 2 hrs.

Number: 25 ± Age: Juv & adults Sex: Males & females

Location: North of 1000 Lake Mtn, between junction of Cathedral Valley road and Fremont Rd for a distance of 3-5 miles west toward Fremont.

Latilong: 38° 26' 40" 111° 25' 42.6" Elevation (if known): 7000' ± 100'
 Hammond World Atlas 1974 Vehicle Altimeter

Distance to bird: 15 to 30 ft. Light conditions: Sunny - bright.

Optical equipment: Swift 10x25 Bushnell 8x40

Weather: Clear with high thin cirrus. Temp about 50°F. Light var. breeze.

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

Size - about same size as Acorn Woodpecker

Shape - very similar to " "

Plumage - Overall dark with white head. Red on back of head on some birds. White patches on outer upper wing surfaces similar to Acorn but no white rump patch as in Acorn.

Attention was drawn immediately to white head which was outstanding.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: Brief, sharp "chick-chick" given only when perched.

Behavior: Flew with typical undulating flight, low and of short duration. Initial sighting was of an apparent 3 bird family group that flew singly but to the same area.

Habitat: Pinyon pine and Utah juniper close to Ponderosa pines. Rocky surface ~~surface~~ supporting mixed grasses.

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

Consideration was given to Lewis' woodpecker but none of the birds observed showed any pink at all. Acorn woodpecker was considered but rejected because of white rump.

What experience have you had with this and similar species: We were returning from 2 months in the Pacific NW specifically looking for this bird and others. We live in the center of Acorn territory and ^{know} that bird very well, we are also quite familiar with Lewis', Downy, Hairy.

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

Peterson's Guide to Birds of the West

Nat. Geo. Field Guide to Birds of North America.

Books were used to confirm range and comparison with other woodpeckers.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

Much significance lies in whether or not this sighting can be verified.

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

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

Observer: Harvey E. Ruth Williams

Signature: 

Address: PO Box 1953

Silver City

NM 88062

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Date prepared: 3/14/90

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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