

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Acorn Woodpecker Scientific Name: *Melanerpes formicivorus*
 Date: 15 Aug. 1985 Time: 1230 Length of time observed: 30 min.
 Number: 2 Age: ? Sex: males
 Location: Coral Pink Sand Dunes, Kane Co., about 3 miles
 NE of state park headquarters
 Latilong: 20 Elevation (if known):
 Distance to bird: ~ 50 feet. Light conditions: good.
 Optical equipment: 7x35 binocs.
 Weather: Clear, 85°

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

Bird was similar in shape to a Lewis Woodpecker, but slightly smaller. Back, wings, & tail were black except that rump was white & there was a white patch at base of primaries. Underparts were white except for a narrow ~~white~~ black band extending across the breast. Head was mostly black except that the crown was red & there was an area of white extending from the forehead down between the bill & eye to the cheek and throat. Eyes were yellow & stood out against the black face. The bill was black, 1" long, straight, & very slender. Judging from the bill shape, the birds were probably the Arizona race aculeator.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: a soft "toit"

Behavior: Birds were climbing & foraging in 2 dead ponderosa pines & would occasionally fly from 1 tree to the other.

Habitat: Sand dunes with scattered ponderosa pine. Area to the east is ponderosa pine, juniper, & piñon.

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

None

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I've observed this species many times 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:

2nd state record. 1st Laticing record.

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

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

Observer: Steven P. Hedges Signature: Steven P. Hedges

Address: 889 S. Cedar Knolls W.
Cedar City, UT 84720

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

John Anderson
Blaine Lunceford

Date prepared: Aug. 20, 1985

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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