

1-1988

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER Scientific Name: Sphyrapicus ruber daggetti

Date: JAN 1 & 2, 1988 Time: 3:45 PM Length of time observed: 1 hr ±

Number: 1 Age: ? PROBABLY JUV. Sex: ?

Location: IVERSON RANCH IN BEAVER DAM WASH, WASHINGTON Co., UTAH

Latilong: 19 Elevation (if known): 2315

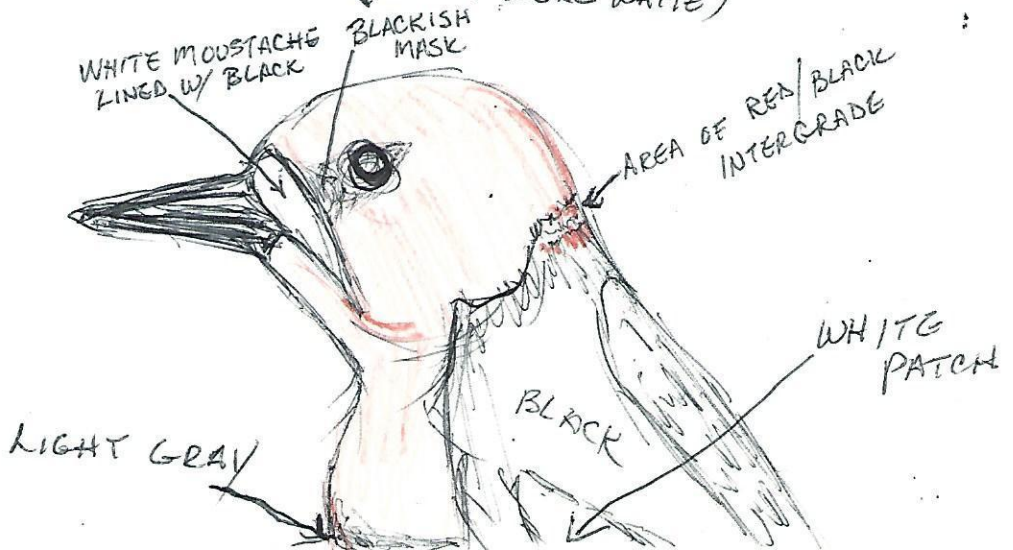
Distance to bird: 30 ft to 100 ft. Light conditions: EXCELLENT

Optical equipment: BINOS 10X55

Weather: Cool / Clear

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

SMALL WOODPECKER WITH BLACK WINGS AND A MOTTLED BACK. A LARGE WHITE PATCH WAS PRESENT ON WING COVERTS. THERE WERE WHITE SPOTS ON THE PRIMARIES. THE LOWER BACK & RUMP WERE WHITE. TAIL WAS BLACK OVERALL WITH SOME WHITE BARRING ON CENTRALS. NOW TO THE GOOD STUFF ... HEAD WAS RED TO ABOUT 2/3 DOWN THE NECK WHERE RED & BLACK FEATHERS INTERMIXED FOR APPROX 1/4". THERE WAS A WHITE MUSTACHE STREAK THAT TAPERED ONTO THE CHEEK. THIS STRIPE WAS THINLY LINED LINED WITH BLACK. THERE WAS ALSO A DARK MASK IN FRONT OF THE EYE. THE RED COVERED THE THROAT AND CONTINUED ONTO THE UPPER BREAST. THE RED FADED INTO A GRAY AREA ON THE BREAST. THIS GRAY AREA THEN BLENDED INTO YELLOW OF THE BELLY. THERE WERE SEVERAL STREAKS OF GRAY ON THE FLANKS THAT CONTINUED TO THE UNDER TAIL COVERTS (WHICH WERE WHITE)



Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

DURING MY OBSERVATION, THE BIRD WAS SILENT

Behavior:

1ST DAY OF OBS. THE BIRD REMAINED IN AN AFRICAN TAMARISK TREE PICKLING AT THE BARK. IT WOULD AT TIMES FLY TO DIFFERENT POSITIONS ON THE TREE AND WORK THAT NEW AREA

Habitat:

TREES IN THE BOTTOM OF BEAVER DAM WASH - DESERT RIPARIAN

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

RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER - HEAD IS STREAKED WITH A WHITE STRIPE PROGRESSING BEHIND THE EYE & ONTO THE NECK, BLACK EYE STREAK ONTO THE NECK, & A YELLOW MUSTACHE THAT GETS WIDER ONTO CHEEK & NECK. ALSO HAS A BLACK STREAK GOING UPWARDS FROM EYE TO ACROSS CROWN TO DIVIDE RED FORE HEAD FROM NAPE. THE ONLY STREAKING ON HEAD WAS A MUSTACHE STRIPE THAT NARROWED & FADED ON CHEEK
Yellow Bellied S.S. SAME HEAD STREAKING AS ABOVE, ALSO LOWER BLACK MUSTACHE BLENDS INTO A BLACK BREAST PATCH THAT TOTALLY ISOLATES RED OF THROAT. RED ON QUESTIONED SPECIES WASN'T ISOLATED IT COVERED ENTIRE THROAT & UPPER BREAST - BORDERED ON LOWER EDGE BY LIGHT GRAY

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I HAD FOUND A DEAD R.B.S.S. IN SAN JUAN Co. IN 1984 AND IN HAND FIT THE DESCRIPTION OF THE SUBSPECIES doggetti. NO OTHER EXPERIENCE w/ LIVE BIRDS. I'M FAIRLY COMFORTABLE w/ RED-NAPED S.S. NO EXP. w/ Y.B.S.S.

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

NATIONAL GEO. & MASTERS GUIDE AS REFERENCES, BUT WROTE A DESCRIPTION IN FIELD

Significance of record in this area or the state:

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

DRAWING FROM FIELD NOTES. PICTURES TAKEN w/ 400mm @ 30ft.

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

Observer: CRAIG L. KNEEDY

Signature:

Address: 314 S. 4580 W.

WEST POINT, UTAH 84015

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

RICHARD & ELLA SORENSEN

Date prepared:

JAN. 7 1988

Return this form to:

Ella Sorensen
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West Valley City, Utah 84120