

## VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Red-headed woodpecker Scientific Name: *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*  
 Date: 6/26/88 Time: <sup>around</sup> 10:30am Length of time observed: Total of about 3 minutes  
 Number: ~~1~~ 2 Age: Adults Sex:  
 Location: Abajo Mountains, outside of Monticello, Utah (about one hour on outside Monticello dirt road)  
 Latilong: ? Elevation (if known): Maybe around 8,000 feet  
 Distance to bird: 200 yards? I'm not good on distances Light conditions: Very good; bright,  
 Optical equipment: Bushnell broadfield, 8x30 8.5° field Sunny day; some clouds  
 Weather: Good; sunny; breezy with some clouds  
 Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

I clearly saw white rump and white speculum and red head. The birds were flying ~~across~~ <sup>and ahead</sup> in front of me, moving from right to left. I was not underneath ~~me~~ them. Wings on the birds were black, except for the white as noted. Back of birds ~~was~~ were also black. The birds flew ~~from~~ into tall trees (pine, I believe) and flew into the top 1/3 of trees.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

None heard

Behavior:

Flew from trees (to right of me) across road and into other trees, to left.  
I believe the trees were pine

Habitat:

Forest - Pine and aspen

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

Acorn woodpecker, but not enough of head was red; more than just the rump was white <sup>(on the birds I saw)</sup> and there was no white in center of wing near wrists.

Red-breasted sapsucker, but <sup>there was</sup> white on wing <sup>of the birds I saw</sup> and there was more than a white rump on the bird I saw. (ie, the white on wings went into speculum).

Range maps in both books eliminated acorn woodpecker; range map of National Geographic eliminated red-breasted. However, range maps also would eliminate red-headed woodpecker

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I've seen it before in Louisiana, although that was 3-4 years ago; I'm most familiar with acorn woodpeckers - they're common in SF. Bay Area.

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

Birds of North America, Robbins, et al.

National Geographic Birds of North America

John and I discussed <sup>and field marks</sup> birds as they were sighted

Significance of record in this area or the state:

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

None

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

Observer: Jean M. Penate

Signature: 

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Other observers who independently identified this bird:

John Crawley

Date prepared: 8-3-88

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen  
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