

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Red-headed woodpecker

Scientific Name: Melanerpes erythrocephalus

Date: 6/88

Time: daytime

Length of time observed: < 5 minutes

Number: 1

Age: adult

Sex: ?

Location: SE Utah

small grassy meadow, at edge of woods

Lat/long:

Elevation (if known):

Distance to bird: 25 - 150 ^{feet} ~~yd~~ during observation

Light conditions: good

Optical equipment: Bushnell 7x50 Sportview, Instant Focus

Weather: not raining

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

midsize woodpecker
 seen flying away, from rear
 red head, not just patch
 continuous white inner wing patches and white rump
 black back, wings, tail, other than white patches, without
 notable speckling, streaking or laddering
 most notable pattern was black, white, with
 fully red head secondarily verifying

Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

Behavior: *not heard*
low, direct flight, from startle?

Habitat: *small grassy meadow, edge of woods*

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

- with clearly contrasting black-white pattern and full red head, other black-white-red woodpecker-sapsuckers were eliminated

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

recreational birder

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

National Geographic, Golden, other expedition members, agreed

Significance of record in this area or the state:

pointed out several weeks later by Dr. Clayton White

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



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

Observer: *SUSAN CRAMPTON*

Signature: *Susan Crampton*

Address: *c/o Regional Audubon
3069, Suite 217
Anchorage, AK 99501*

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

check with Dr. Clayton White, BYU

Date prepared: *9/26/88*

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120



BRIGHAM YOUNG
UNIVERSITY

? 1987-1988

Campus Memorandum

From Clay Hite To Susan Crampton Date _____

Room _____ Room _____

Glad you received your boots etc. Thanks for the card. Turns out that the red-headed woodpecker that you saw on the first day out of Monticello-on the road to the camp- is an important record for Utah. Could you fill out the encoled form and be sure to compart it to the red-breasted sapsucker which is a similar species in the same area. Thanks for you help on this.

Regards

Clay

Clayton, My memory of the sighting is sketchy, but completed. Thanks for article, which I photocopied. Am returning ancient hieroglyphics for archives. Alaska's lack of conservation ethic is horriifying, but the outdoors is memorable. I hope that not all that remains in fifty years. Susan Crampton