

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Verification of Unusual Sight Record

Common Name: Acorn Woodpecker Scientific Name: Melanerpes formicivorus
 Date: 21 Aug 1988 Time: ~ 1430 MST Length of time observed: ~ 10-15 min.
 Number: 1 Age: ? Sex: male
 Location: Utah, San Juan Co., ~ 10 mi. S Monticello @ hwy 163 x-ing of Devils Canyon. 2
 Lat/long: ? Elevation: ~ 7000 ft
 Distance to bird: ~ 150 m Light conditions: clear, sunny
 Optical equipment: 10x40 binocs
 Weather: clear, calm
 Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)
 A medium sized black & white woodpecker w/white rump, black back, red crown & white band thru face

Behavior: perched quietly atop an approximately 75 ft ponderosa snag.

Habitat: Pinyon-Juniper woodland flanked rocky canyon supporting ponderosa & gambel oak.

Describe what specific features you saw or heard that caused you to reach your conclusion:

Numerous caching holes in the snag it perched on drew my initial attention. After ~20 min. the bird was seen perched upon the snag's top. The bold black and white pattern of the black, white & red "clean" face were readily visible.

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

Only other woodpeckers, none of which in this region sport the diagnostic facial pattern of an Acorn Woodpecker.

What experience have you had with this and similar species: Observed frequently throughout northern central & S.E. Arizona.

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

none.

Significance of record in this area or the state: site of Utah's first specimen seen

DOR January 1988. One of apparently only a few localities for Utah.

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

Observer: Chuck LaRue

Signature: *Charles T. LaRue*

Address: Box 1802 Kayenta, AZ 86033

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Anne R. LaRue - saw this bird & could have ID'ed it, if I hadn't called it beforehand.

Date prepared: 14 Oct 1988

Return this form to: Utah Ornithological Society
C/O Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120