

17-1993

Red-breasted Sapsucker Signaling - Terry Sadler

Date: Oct 15, 1993

Location: Fish Springs Natl Wildlife Refuge

Weather: cloudy, Rain in the morning prior to sighting. Temps 40°F to 45°F.

Optics: Swift Audobon 8.5 x 44. bird observed from distance of 15' to 25'

Time spent observing the bird: Approx 1 hour $\frac{1}{2}$ hour 10:00 AM TO 10:30 AM and 11:00 AM to 11:30 AM.

Description of observation:

While birding the trees around the residential area quarters of Fish Springs I came across a Sapsucker working one of the trees. The bird generally stayed on the main trunk approx 7' to 9 ft above the ground. Occasionally a yellow rumped Warbler would land near the Sapsucker and the Sapsucker would chase it away. The entire head of the Sapsucker was a wine-red color, with red covering the entire crown, nape, cheeks, throat & upper breast. The red of the throat seemed to be combed back to cover the sides of the throat & cheek area.

a white malar stripe was visible which ran from the top of the dark bill backward below the eye and extended into the cheek. a white ~~near~~ bar was also visible above & behind the ^{dark} eye. The bar was approx. the length of the width of the eye. This white bar ran parallel to the white malar stripe. Some black was visible in front of the eye and could also be seen faintly behind behind & below the eye as ~~it was~~ the black was covered by red feather which seemed to be combed up from the throat & cheek area.

The red on the Forecast area faded into a dingy white

lower in the Breast area. This dingy white extend down through the belly. There was no black bib below the red Throat and Red on the upper breast of the bird.

The back of the Sapsucker was a faded black darker toward the Neck area and lighter toward the white rump. on the back was a pattern of white barring on either side of the faded Black centered back. The dark (Black) ~~what~~ wings had a white wing patch. The black wings were more faded toward the tips (primaries + secondaries) and had a pattern of white spots.

Distinguishing from a Red-naped Sapsucker:

Red naped Sapsuckers usually have a patterned Black + white head with a red crown and red nape. The Sapsucker observed generally had the entire head red except as otherwise described.

Red-naped sapsuckers also have a black bib below the red Throat. The Sapsucker observed did not. The red of the Throat extended into the upper breast eventually fading into a dingy white belly.

Red-naped Sapsuckers have a white whisker or malar stripe bordered by black below. There was no such black border in the Sapsucker observed. Also in red-naped

Sapsuckers there is extensive Black above the white malar stripe. ~~which~~ This black encircles the eye and extends back toward the rear of the head. In the Sapsucker observed black was visible in front of the eye but behind the eye was red, though the red feathers which seem to be combed over a dark background.

In Red-eyed Sapsucker a white elongated stripe above the eye extends backward toward the nape & is bordered above by Black. In the Sapsucker observed. There was a white Bar above & to the rear of the eye. This bar was about the length of the width of the eye and $\frac{1}{2}$ the width.

