

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTING

1998-85

ACCEPTED (7-0)

✓ rec'd 9-30-98  
PHOTO

Species: Acorn Woodpecker

Date(s): 25 June 1995

Time seen: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Locality: Durango

Distance: 37107 (23)

Optical equipment: Binoculars, 35 mm camera  
Photograph enclosed

Number of birds seen: 2-3 Sex: Plumage: adult

Light conditions: Excellent

RECIRCULATED -  
ORIG. # 33-95-103

Distance from bird: 10 feet to 200 yards

Weather at time of observation: Clear, warm

Describe habitat: Valley with scrub oak and grasslands; hillside with scrub oak and several scattered, towering ponderosa pines with lots of dead limbs.

Describe behavior: We first saw an Acorn Woodpecker swoop onto a power pole right beside our car and drive away a Lewis's Woodpecker from the pole. It appeared to be a storage site for acorns which the Acorn Woodpecker defended against the Lewis's. This bird stayed only long enough for me to take the enclosed photograph—one only!

We then saw 2-3 on the pines across the hillside cavorting on the dead limbs, chasing each other and vice versa, and simply perched on the trees.

Field marks observed: size, color, pattern, shape, bill, etc.: Medium-sized woodpeckers—somewhat smaller than the Lewis's nearby. Black back, clown face with white. Some yellow, and red. We saw the white rump and white wing patches when the birds flew.

Bird's call or song: None heard.

History of the observations: Chris Hagen first observed these birds; he lived in a house directly across from the tall, dead ponderosas that the birds use. Chad Ferry ultimately moved to this house when Chris moved to Loveland (and spotted Acorn Woodpeckers there, I think). Jeff Stransky, who lives within a half-mile, has also observed them at his feeder. Urling and I went to see these birds in connection with Breeding Bird Atlas data-gathering.

Observer experience: Both of us have seen them in California.

Description from: Memory. I failed to take notes at the time, at least notes I can find. It never occurred to me that CBO RBC would not have reports from other observers. The slide could at least serve to corroborate the identification.

  
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