

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Accepted (7-5)

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: ACORN WOODPECKER
(Vernacular Name)1 Melanerpes formicivorus
(Scientific Name)Date(s): 9/27/95 - 10/1/95Number of birds seen: ONE Sex: FM Plumage: ADULT

Latilong: _____ Distribution Code: _____ Habitat Code: _____

Locality: _____ Elevation: 5280Nearest town: LOVELAND, CO County: LARIMERTime(s) observed: see attached formDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): see attached form

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Stephen Bonanus 3154 N. County Rd 317 Loveland, CO 80538

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

MARLIE ELLIOT

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

9/27, 29, 30, 10/1 excellent lighting - 28th overcast but still strag-

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): _____

Distance and how measured: see attached form / paced off with stride of my feet.

If photographed, type of equipment and film: _____

Who else photographed the bird: David Leatherman PHOTO

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

see attached form

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observed in the field:

see attached form

Description (continued):

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

She never called in the duration which I saw her. No one who came to the ranch reported hearing her call.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Just above a riparian area (i.e. a hundred yards from the Big Thompson River. Close to residential home Chinese Elm trees & an apple tree.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

The only thing similar to the Acorn in flight is the white head, and obviously dismissed once the facial mask and yellow eye and breast was apparent.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I lived at a residence in Durango in which 5 to 6 birds lived from Dec of 1993 to now.


List books, illustration, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) At time of observation: FIELD GUIDE - NGS BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA

b) After observation:

This report was written from reports made during observation ☒, from memory ☐

Date and time report was written:

Reporting observer: CHRISTIAN A. HAGERT Signature: 

Address: 2921 N. COUNTY RD 31 D LOVELAND, CO 80538
770-593-1585

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205

CHRISTIAN HAGEN
2921 North County Road 31 D
Loveland, CO 80538
970-593-1585

Bill Preather
13810 Weld County Rd. #1
Longmont, CO 80504

10/18/95

RE: *Melanerpes formicivorous*, Acorn Woodpecker, sighting Loveland, CO

2:05 September 27, 1995

Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch

I was walking south along the main road, east of the pastures, when I saw a flash of black and white (approximately 75 yards). I observed the bird through my binoculars perched on the high, or west post of the pasture gate. I noticed a red patch against the jet black back with some white showing on the rump. I began to approach, and was in about 25 yards of the bird when it turned its face towards me. Now I could plainly see the yellowish white and black face with the yellow eye. I realized it was the Acorn Woodpecker! I took two photographs from 15 yards before the bird flew east 50 yards to a large elm tree. I pursued the bird as it flew from the elm on which it had landed, headed west 30 yards to an electrical pole at the northwest corner of the drive way. Approached the bird to a range of twenty feet, at this time I could depict the black forehead separating the red crown from the yellowish white face. I concluded it was obviously a female. I continued to photograph her at this close proximity. She continued to "flycatch" from this perch for thirty minutes. I casually observed her from the residence nearby until 4:00 that afternoon.

10:30-45 September 28, 1995

At the above described location of an elm tree she was spotted. We pursued her to a neighboring apple tree, from where she disappeared, momentarily. Only to reappear at 30-40 yards sitting on wooden fence. This sighting was shared with a Margie Elliot and her sister.

1:15 September 29, 1995

Observed her on a electrical pole on the southeast corner of the first residence mentioned. She was flycatching for roughly twenty minutes.

10:00 or 11:00 September 30, 1995

Group of birders had her in a scope on an elm tree north of her "regular hang out".
I personally observed her for just a moment.

1:45 October 1, 1995

Observed her on a telephone pole on the southeast corner of the residence described above.

