

NOTES

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER IN THE IMPERIAL VALLEY OF CALIFORNIA

On 17 July 1971 Alfred T. Driscoll and his son found a Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) in a row of Eucalyptus trees on the Wister Fish and Game Wildlife Management Area northwest of Niland, Imperial County, California. On 31 July the Driscolls again observed the bird in the same row of trees, this time taking several identifiable pictures, and on 7 August the authors, accompanied by their sons and several others, again observed the woodpecker in the same area. This time Steven Cardiff obtained several photographs using a 500 mm. lens and Kodachrome II film (Figure 1).

This woodpecker was seen actively flycatching for insects in the air and was also observed flying down to the ground to feed. Otherwise it spent most of its time in the Eucalyptus trees, but occasionally flew to some nearby Tamerisk trees and was also observed in a Mesquite tree for a short time. This individual was brightly colored; it lacked any black between the red of the head and neck and the white of the breast, so was probably an adult male. The feathers showed very little wear for this date, and none of the type of wear one would expect on a caged bird. This bird was last seen on 22 August 1971.

This is the first report of a live Red-headed Woodpecker in the state of California. There is a report of a mummified bird found along a road in La Puente, Los Angeles County, on 20 May 1962 (David G. Marqua, Condor



FIGURE 1. An adult Red-headed Woodpecker near Niland, Imperial County, California, on 7 August 1971. The bird was present from at least 17 July to 22 August 1971.

Photos by Steven Cardiff

NOTES

65:332, 1963), but this bird could have been brought into the state lodged in the front of a vehicle. The closest Red-headed Woodpecker record to this area is one taken in the Chiricahua Mountains of Arizona "about June 1894" by W. W. Price (Birds of Arizona, Phillips, Marshall, and Monson, 1964). It is possible that the Chiricahua Mountain and Imperial County birds wandered off course during the spring migration. *Eugene A. Cardiff, San Bernardino County Museum, Bloomington, California 92316, and Alfred T. Driscoll, 5550 Electric Ave., San Bernardino, California 92407.*

CORRECTION

The last issue of *California Birds* "Interbreeding of the Glaucous-winged Gull and Western Gull in the Pacific northwest" 2(4):129-133, contained a typographical error on page 129, paragraph three, eleventh line. The word "south" should be substituted for the word "sound".

The editors regret this error.

Membership dues and changes of address should be sent to Clifford R. Lyons, Treasurer, Post Office Box 369, Del Mar, California 92014. Classes of membership (all include subscription to *California Birds*): Patron, \$1000; Life, \$150; Supporting, \$20 annually; Contributing, \$10 annually; Regular, \$5 annually. Make checks payable to *California Birds*.

Manuscripts should be sent to Guy McCaskie, San Diego Natural History Museum, Box 1390, San Diego, California 92112. Use of the *Style Manual for Biological Journals* is suggested as a guide in preparing manuscripts. Fifty reprints of each article are provided free of charge. Arrangements for additional reprints may be made at the time manuscripts are submitted; the additional cost will be borne by the contributor.

Rare bird reports should be sent to Jon Winter, Secretary, Rare Bird Committee, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Mesa Rd., Bolinas, California 94924.

Layout and cover design by Virginia P. Johnson