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 3:23-24, 1972).
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
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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.

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