

New Mexico Ornithological Society

Bird Records Committee Submittal Form

New Mexico Rare/Unusual Bird Report

This form is intended as a guide in reporting observations of unusual birds. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all. Leave blank any details not observed. Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please print in black ink or send electronically. Attach available drawings, photographs (electronic, or slides, prints, video), copies of field notes, etc.; include **all** photos of obscurely marked species.

1. Common or scientific name:

Lewis's Woodpecker

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 ad. males in breeding plumage):

1 juvenile

3. Locality (include County and distance from nearest named town):

Dona Ana County; about 1 mile from the intersection of 1-25 and Lohman Ave in Las Cruces

4. Date(s) when seen:

December 20, 2014

5. Time(s) of day when seen:

11:30 AM

6. Reporting observer (include middle initial, address, and e-mail address):

Diane Moore, 4816 Camino Dos Vidas, Las Cruces, NM 88012, dmoorelms@yahoo.com

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:

Molly Molloy

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird: No one

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

Sunny, cloudless sky. I had the sun in my eyes upon seeing this bird

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

Vortex 10x42

11. Distance to bird: 15-20 feet

12. Duration of observation:

5 mins

13. Habitat (general and specific): open, weedy grassland; mesquite & creosote trees. Pine trees are in the area, as well

14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification):

Perched on a mesquite tree top; he gave me time to get the field guide out and rule out other woodpeckers

15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc. Stress field marks): We knew it was a woodpecker because of the tail feathers and the bill. But, the color and pattern of the feathers made us turn to the field guides. It was clear that the belly had light coloring but not as pink as in the guide book. It didn't have the typical white/red markings along the backside and throat.

16. Voice:

Silent

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

At 1st glance, I knew it was a woodpecker because of the profile view. I moved directly in front of the bird and ruled out sapsuckers because no white markings were visual and the trees were not sapsucker friendly. I motioned Molly to my side and she grabbed her field guide. The only possible choice was the "juvenile" Lewis's Woodpecker because the head color was dark, almost brown.

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?): No, sorry

19. Previous experience with this species:

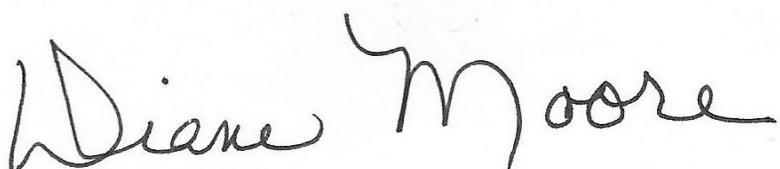
November 15th. The profile was exactly the same; directly on top of the treetop

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc., used in identification a) at time of observation; b) after observation: Sibley field guide to birds of W.N.A - ninth printing & Nat'l geo field guide

21. This description written from: notes made during observation; notes made after observation; memory. It was perched tall, like the ladder-backed. But, the belly wasn't as slender as a ladderbacked. It didn't have the white collar, so we knew it had to be a juvenile.

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: If I had taken a photo, I'd be 100 percent positive.

23. Signature of reporter, along with date and time of writing of this account. 1/13/2015 6:27pm

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Diane" on the left and "Moore" on the right, connected by a flourish.

It is emphasized that a request for documentation is not an affront, but is an effort to substantiate a record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for all to evaluate.