

Lewis's Woodpecker Description
Audubon Christmas Bird Count 12-16-2015

Observed Lewis's Woodpecker on High Tension Power lines to our left as we were driving on residential dirt road in residential Pinion Forest near Carson, NM. The sun was on our right. Lighting was excellent and we had a very clear view of the bird for an extended period.

This bird was on wooden power poles and cross beams and moved between cross beam and top of wooden power pole, which allowed us to observe the bird in flight. Bird had black back, red-breast and gray collar, red on face with black head and also observed the bird in flight and could clearly discern flight pattern. Observed in close proximity to western bluebird and could clearly distinguish the two species in both color and size. Commented during the observations were made regarding the gray collar, red breast and black back, and flight pattern which was easily discernable as a clear discriminator for this species.

Photograph of this species will be provided for this report by Will Jaremko-Wright who used SLR camera with 400mm lens to obtain photos of this bird.

Three observers with 2 – 8x42 binoculars and 1 – 10x50 binoculars observed this bird for approximately 5 minutes at approximately 2:00 in the afternoon. Sky was clear, blue and unobscured. Distance estimated to be about 150 yards. Pinion forest was cleared below power lines.