

Gila Woodpecker *Melanerpes uropygialis*

The Gila Woodpecker reaches the northwestern tip of its range in the Imperial Valley. In San Diego County there were only unsubstantiated reports until 2003–04, when one spent the winter in Borrego Springs. Although the Gila Woodpecker is common in the towns of Brawley and El Centro, the dying off of cottonwood trees in the Imperial Valley disfavors the woodpecker from spreading.

Winter: San Diego County's first well-supported Gila Woodpecker appeared in a residential area of Borrego Springs (G24) 25 September 2003–1 March 2004 (P. D. Jorgensen), to be observed and photographed by many. The report of one near Jacumba (U28) 17 October 1952 (Gardner 1959) was based on a recollection several years old, and the report of one at Tamarisk Grove 18 January 1986 (Massey 1998) was not substantiated.