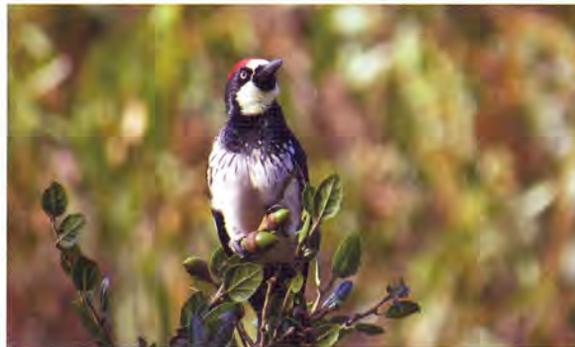


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*THE ACORN WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) is an irruptive species new to Claremont Canyon this year, likely the result of an acorn crop failure elsewhere. On September 14th, on their daily hike up the hill, Erica Rutherford and John Colbert counted 40 individuals in the Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve, most of them gathering acorns (50 percent of their diet) and stuffing them into the crevices of the nearby eucalyptus trees. Acorn woodpeckers are unusual woodpeckers in that they live in colonies, can store up to 50,000 acorns in dead trees (called granaries), and breed cooperatively. Listen for their raucous “jacob, jacob, jacob” calls and look for their “clown-like” face and glowing yellow eye next time you are in the canyon.*