

WOODPECKERS

Woodpeckers are birds that get their name from the way they tap their beaks on tree trunks in order to search for insects, attract mates, establish territory, and excavate nesting cavities. They have strong, pointed beaks with short legs, sharp-clawed toes, and stiff nails. Many species rely on the woodpeckers' cavities in trees. Swallows, small owls, bluebirds, wrens, and chickadees often take advantage of the old woodpecker excavations for their own nesting sites.

PILEATED

Size: 20 inch long (nearly as large as a crow)

Markings: Black with a red crest and a white line down the sides of the throat. Adult males have a red line from the bill to the throat; in adult females these are black. When in flight, they show white on the wings.

Call: a laughing kuk-kuk-kuk

Drumming: loud, like someone striking a tree with a hammer.



HAIRY

Size: 10 inches long

Markings: Black on the upper parts and wings with white spotting; pale back; the throat and belly vary from white to sooty brown. Black tail with white outer feathers. Adult males have a red patch or two side-by-side patches on the back of the head; juvenile males have red on the crown. Their bill is nearly the same length as its head.

Call: most commonly - a short, sharp peek

Drum: rapid and evenly paced 26 beats for about 1 second

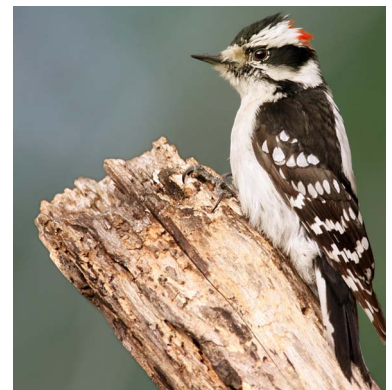
DOWNY

Size: 7 inches long, smallest woodpecker in North America

Markings: Similar to the hairy woodpecker, but downy has black spots on its white tail feathers and a short, thorn-like bill.

Call: Sharp "Pik" note, whinnying call

Drum: Very rapid strikes given at a steady pace, almost fast enough to blend into a single uninterrupted sound.



RED-BELLIED

Size: 10 inches long

Markings: black and white barred backs, wings and tale; gleaming red caps; light gray on the face and underparts. The reddish tinge on the belly that gives the bird its name is difficult to see.

Call: most common call is a shrill, rolling kwirr

Drum: steady 19 beats per second for 1 or 2 seconds at a time