



Woodpeckers - Quick Reference Sheet¹

2

Table 1.

Year-round Species in Florida:		red-headed, red-bellied, downy, hairy, red-cockaded, and pileated woodpeckers; and northern flicker
Other Names:		sapsuckers, hammerheads, ladderbacks
Appearance:	Size:	smallest is downy (6.5 inches long)
		largest is pileated (16 inches long)
	Color:	mostly black and white, males have some red on head
Range:		all species are found statewide
Habitat:		woodpeckers are found in all wooded habitats
Diet:		insects, acorns, seeds, and tree sap
Reproduction:		excavate nest holes in trees
		3-6 white eggs are laid from February (pileated) to August (red-headed)
Behavior:		perch and hop up and down tree trunks and other vertical surfaces
		feed on wood-boring insects by pecking into wood
		a pecking sequence (drumming) on dead limbs and other materials to produce a loud sound is used to establish territories and attract mates
Problems:		damage to wood siding due to drumming, feeding, or nest-building activities
		annoyance created by drumming noises
Solutions:		cover siding with a lightweight mesh nylon or plastic netting hung from the eaves and kept at least 3 inches out from the siding
		cover siding with sheet of plastic; woodpeckers will not be able to perch on this smooth surface
		limited success can be obtained with owl and hawk scarecrows, and noise making devices

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Legal Aspects:	permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are required to use lethal control methods
	permits from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are required to destroy nests
	red-cockaded woodpeckers are listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered and by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as threatened.
	ivory-billed woodpeckers are listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as endangered. This species is likely extinct in North America and may only be represented by a few animals, if any, in Cuba.
	the Florida Committee on Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals has recommended listing the hairy woodpecker
Fact Sheet Available:	yes