

# Woodpecker



The Northern Flicker (*colaptes auratus*) is a woodpecker that is seven to 15" in length with a brown, barred back and black spotted underparts. They have a distinctive black crescent bib and a long black bill. Flickers have short legs, a stiff tail and sharp-clawed toes. The Northern red-shafted flickers have a red mustache located under each eye. Northern Flickers are easily identified during flight by the orange tint under their wings and a white rump patch.

## Range:

Year-round resident

## Habitat:

Open habitats near trees, including woodlands, edges, yards, and parks.

## Diet:

Mainly forage on the ground, eating insects, tree sap, vegetable matter, berries, nuts, seeds. 75% of their diet consists of animal matter, the majority of which are ants.

## Behavior:

The flicker will drum on objects to establish territory, locate a mate, search for insects and to excavate a nest site. Drumming occurs from early spring until the first of July.

## Nesting:

Cavity nester

## Did You Know:

Woodpeckers eat A LOT of bugs, in particular ants.

## Possible Conflicts:

The Northern flicker is responsible for most woodpecker damage to homes. Damage can be done to stucco, plywood, masonite, cedar, rough pine and redwood siding.

## What to Do:

Controlling flicker damage occurs by exclusion, scare devices, preventative construction or a combination of all three.

- Plastic strips (possibly cut from a garbage bag or mylar) should be approximately one inch wide and two to three feet long.
- Attach cloth or plastic netting at an angle, from the eaves to the siding, below the damaged area.
- Hawk silhouettes, mirrors and pinwheels. Place a hawk silhouette on each side of the damaged area. Shaving or cosmetic mirrors located at the damaged site work to enlarge the image and frighten the woodpecker. Pinwheels should be 12" in diameter. Both the plastic strips and the pinwheel should be placed at the damaged spot.
- Place a nest box at or near the damaged area.
- Preventative construction includes prompt repair of woodpecker holes. Cover the drilled area with aluminum flashing, tin can tops or metal sheathing. Paint the metal to match the siding.

## Legal Status:

Classified as migratory, nongame birds and are protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

## For More Information:

Broomfield Wildlife Masters, call 303-464-5554



Woodpecker hole

## Wildlife Observation:

**Look** for wildlife. Remember to watch from a distance and don't get too close.

**Listen** for wildlife. Even if you can't see wildlife, you may hear them.

**Learn** about wildlife. Talk to a wildlife master or naturalist, borrow a book about wildlife.

## Love and Respect the Outdoors!

The more we know about wildlife, the less likely we are to harm or fear wildlife.



City and County of Broomfield  
Open Space and Trails  
303.464.5803  
[www.broomfield.org/openspace](http://www.broomfield.org/openspace)