

# The Wonderful World of Woodpeckers

Spring is a big season for the birds. Just step outside, and a symphony of bird sounds fill your ears. One of these is the percussive tapings of the woodpecker. In the early spring, woodpeckers start hammering away at trees, buildings, and even metal surfaces such as chimneys and drainpipes. Any hard surface will do, just as long as it rings out and catches the fancy of a prospective mate.

Beyond wanting to make noise before nesting season, woodpeckers do a lot of other things with the hammering of their long bills. They hammer to hollow out an opening for a nest, and they hammer to reach the tasty insects that lie beneath the bark of a tree. In fact, woodpeckers can hammer at a rate of 18 to 22 beats per second, up to 12,000 times per day.

There are many different kinds of woodpeckers that can be found throughout North America. Here are some that may show up at your backyard feeder: The smallest, and most common of the North American woodpeckers, **the Downy Woodpecker**, with its black-and-white checked plumage, can be found pretty much anywhere trees dwell in the

U.S. and Canada – except for deserts and the island of Hawaii.

**The Hairy Woodpecker**, a near look alike to the Downy Woodpecker, can be found from Alaska to Panama and throughout the United States. You can distinguish these two birds by keeping in mind that the Downy is smaller and has a shorter bill.

**The Red-bellied Woodpecker** is the epitome of nature-inspired fashion as it rocks a lively patterned black-and-white back and wings balanced with a tasteful pop of red on the cap.

And though its name appears to be a misnomer, there is some red hiding in the pale-feathered belly of this bird. The Red-bellied Woodpecker is found through much of the eastern half of the U.S., but their population is concentrated in the southeast.

**The Pileated Woodpecker** is a showy bird among colorless winter landscapes. The largest of the North American woodpecker species, they are

black, with bold white stripes on the face and flanks. "Pileated" (PIE-lee-ay-tid) means "capped," and refers to that smart crest of red feathers on its head. The territory of the Pileated Woodpecker makes a lopsided horseshoe shape across North America, blanketing much of the eastern half of the U.S., spanning Canada, then needling along the coast of the Pacific Northwest.



## Lyric Woodpecker No Waste Mix

When it comes to finding these birds at your feeder, the arrival of colder weather means the start of woodpecker viewing season. **Woodpeckers are non-migrants**, so when the insect supply disappears, they instead forage for seeds, nuts, and fruits. Fill your feeder with Lyric Woodpecker No Waste Mix to enjoy a close-up look at these showstopping birds.

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