

Woodpeckers

NOTE: There are many types of birds related to woodpeckers (200+ species). This page is about Woodpeckers - the birds most often associated with property damage.

Scientific Classification: Animalia, Chordata, Aves, Neornithes, Neognathae; Neoaves; Piciformes, Pici, Picidae (sub: wrynecks, piculets).

Bird Size & Markings: Woodpecker sizes vary. The giant Piliated Woodpecker can be 22" long and have a 33" wing span. The small Downy Woodpecker is 5" long with a 10" wing span. Markings vary widely. Dark plumage is often iridescent while head and chest markings are often bright white, red or yellow. ALL Woodpeckers have long, strong bills for drilling into or drumming on trees.

Habitat: In general, woodpeckers live in wooded or forested habitats. Some are migratory while others stay in the same area all year. They can inhabit man made objects made of wood or soft materials (EIFS, drywall, plywood, shingles, etc).

Nesting/Dens: Woodpecker nests almost always consist of holes excavated in wood or soft materials. They lay between 2 and 5 eggs for each brood. Each brood fledges after 3 to 4 weeks.

Food: Woodpeckers are omnivorous - while they prefer insects, they can also eat nuts, grain, fruit and seed or suet. They are often drawn to bird feeders with the addition of suet, peanuts and some grains.

Impact on Human Health: Inhabitation can lead to bird mite infestations. Most of the time, Woodpeckers are solitary and do not accumulate bird waste in large quantities like other social species.

Impact on Architecture: Woodpeckers can severely damage man made structures. During nesting/mating season, they can excavate dozens of holes in the exterior of a house. If clad with EIFS systems, woodpeckers penetrate the outer coating and burrow deep into the insulating rigid foam, compromising the entire system. They drum loudly on hollow metal or wood surfaces to announce their presence or dominance. This drumming usually occurs just before or at dawn when it is the least appreciated by people.

Woodpecker Control Methods:

Bird Spikes: *Premium Nixalite Stainless Spikes.*

Bird Netting: *K-Net HT Bird Netting, Bird-Net Bird Netting, PollyNet Bird Netting, Bare-Hand Crop & Vineyard Netting, Welded Wire Mesh.*

Dispersal: Fogging with *Fog Force Bird Fogging Repellent, Bird Hazing* with aerosol generators, *Acoustic Dispersal* with HyperSpike acoustic hammers.

Additional Products: *Visual deterrents like Repeller Ribbon, Predator Eyes, Air Crow Moving Scare Crow, the ScareCrow Motion Activated sprinkler, Bird Reflector, etc.*

NOTE: All woodpeckers are protected by the US Migratory Bird Treaty Act. **It is your responsibility to check local, state and federal regulations regarding the control of bird and/or animal species.**

Simply purchasing the best control does not guarantee success. Best results come from a thorough knowledge of both the species and the product or method you employ. If you have any questions, please contact Nixalite of America Inc and speak with a bird control product specialist.



Woodpeckers vary in both size and markings. The Piliated Woodpecker (shown above) is large for a Woodpecker with a 33" wing span.



Nearly all of the complaints linked to Woodpeckers is the physical damage they can do to wood or soft material surfaces. This Sapsucker can create hundreds of holes to get its food.



To prevent brain damage, Woodpeckers and Flickers have evolved a number of adaptations to protect the brain; including small brain size.

Note: factual content from Wikipedia, Audubon, US Center for Disease Control, US Federal Register Codebook, and others.



Nixalite® of America Inc
1025 16th Avenue, East Moline, IL 61244
Experts In Architectural Bird Control Since 1950

Phone: 800.624.1189 or 309.755.8771
Fax: 800.624.1196 or 309.755.0077
Email: birdcontrol@nixalite.com
Web: www.nixalite.com