

General Information

There are 21 species of Woodpeckers in the United States. These birds are federally protected and cannot be destroyed. These birds can have two or three **broods** per year, each with three to six babies. Woodpeckers have an extra-thick skull, so they don't get a headache from all that pecking!

Size: 7" – 15" long	Common Name: Woodpecker
Shape: Bird	Kingdom: Animalia
Color: Varies	Phylum: Chordata
Legs: 2	Class: Aves
Wings: Yes	Order: Piciformes
Antenna: No	Family: Picidae
	Genus Species: 25+

Diet

Woodpeckers eat insects found in trees. When they hear an insect under the bark, they peck a hole with their beaks. Their beaks are long, straight, and pointy, good for making holes. Their tongues are really long with a sharp end for sticking bugs inside the tree. Their tongue is also sticky, so it can attach to ants in the tree or lick up sap. They also collect nuts and berries to eat and will sometimes eat peanut butter from bird feeders.

Habitat

Woodpeckers usually live in or near trees. They can also nest in buildings, fences and large poles.

Impact

Damaged caused by woodpeckers can range from holes in wood to damaged siding and air conditioning units.

Prevention

- * Most people just use noise to scare woodpeckers away from their homes.
- * Remember, woodpeckers are Federally protected so any prevention or control must follow Federal laws.

To learn more about this and other birds, visit <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/birds.html>