

Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*)

The Downy woodpecker is North America's smallest woodpecker. It has a small, thorn-like bill only half the length of its head, black and white checkered wings, and a red patch on its head. They are described as active and bold woodpeckers. They are abundant in forests, orchards, suburban areas, and even city parks. They feed on wood-boring insect larvae, spiders, ants, fruits and berries. Males and females share the food-collecting work load. The male flakes bark of small limbs, while the female excavates larger limbs and trunks. Their nest can be found on small, dead trees only 4 - 5 inches in diameter.



Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*)



This medium sized woodpecker of 9 inches has very similar coloring to the Downy woodpecker. Two ways to tell them apart are with their overall size and bill size. The hairy is a larger bird with a strong bill the same size as its head (not half the size of the head like the downy). These birds are strong and insectivorous, eating wood-boring beetles and larvae, ants, and other insects. Twenty two percent of their diet is composed of wild fruit. They prefer larger trees since they are larger birds and can be found in open woodlands, suburban areas, and recently burned forests.

Saddler's Woods Conservation Association (SWCA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of volunteers dedicated to preserving the natural and cultural resources of Saddler's Woods in Haddon Township, NJ.

Saddler's Woods is a 25 acre urban forest that contains a meadow, young woodlands, wetlands, and a rare stand of old growth trees. SWCA's core initiatives are restoration, education, and research. SWCA is managed by a 100% volunteer staff and relies entirely upon grants and donations to pursue its mission.

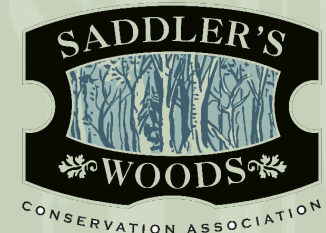
To find out more visit saddlerswoods.org

WOODPECKERS OF SADDLER'S WOODS



Habitat for Woodpeckers

Saddler's Woods, a 25-acre urban forest provides a healthy habitat for woodpeckers. Whether feeding on acorns, fruits, carpenter ants, and beetle larvae or nesting in cavities, woodpeckers depend on trees. Saddler's Woods contains a variety of living and dying tree species. Standing, dead trees make perfect nesting habitat for these monogamous birds. Woodpeckers and their holes are visible in several sections of the woods. See how many you can find!



North American Woodpeckers

On a walk through the woods, sometimes we hear the steady sound of something knocking or drilling. We look up to see a vertical bird with an interesting posture, a straight back, wide shoulders, short legs, a blocky head, and strong bill. This species is probably one of the twenty two species of woodpeckers found in North America.

Six of these amazing birds have been spotted in Saddler's Woods and are outlined in this pamphlet. Most have plumage of black, white, and red (with a few exceptions). They have extremely strong toes, skulls, and bills. Their toes are arranged in a zygodactyl formation (two toes facing forward and two toes facing backward). This is different from songbirds that have three toes facing forward.

Their thick, shock-absorbing skulls come in handy with all that tapping. A special membrane holds their eyeballs tightly in place, while their strong bills drill to find ants and beetle larvae, swallowed down by their long, sticky tongue. Look and listen closely for these amazing birds while walking in Saddler's Woods.



Red-Bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*)

The Red-bellied woodpecker is commonly mistaken for the Red-headed woodpecker. Red-bellied woodpeckers do have a red belly (might be a small section, but it's there!) and have red on the nape and top of their head, unlike the Red-headed that has an entirely red head. Red-bellied woodpeckers are about 10 inches tall, are pale, and have black and white barred coloring on their backs. They are primarily vegetarians. Fruits, nuts, and vegetables compose 75% of their diet. They will peck for insects, but are not as much of a driller as some woodpeckers. They are commonly found in Eastern woodlands of oak and hickory.

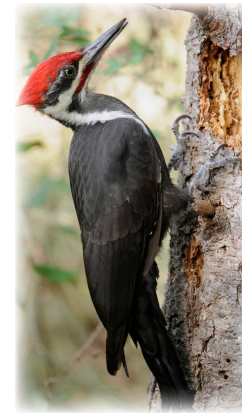


Northern Flicker Woodpecker (*Colaptes auratus*)



Black scalloped plumage, black polka dots, a black bib, and yellow tail feathers make the Northern flicker stand out among other woodpeckers. Standing about one foot in height, this woodpecker is one of the noisiest, drilling and tapping on trees, downspouts, and house siding. There are potentially three species, the yellow-shafted, red-shafted, and gilded, all varying in color. Saddler's Woods is home to the yellow-shafted. This bird prefers foraging on the ground for food rather than drilling into trees. It will use its long, sticky tongue to eat ants and beetles. In the fall, they may feed on fruits as well as insects. They are found in woodlands, park areas, and suburban backyard habitats.

Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*)



The Pileated woodpecker is the largest existing woodpecker standing two feet tall. With a striking red crest, it is the only crested woodpecker in North America. Seventy five percent of its diet consists of insects. These birds are strong excavators that dig deep into trees. They make a unique, rectangular drilling area and can pry off long slivers of bark to expose ants. They have a noisy call like the Northern flicker with a laugh-like sound that fades at the end. They prefer large trees in deciduous and coniferous forests. They are well adapted to the changing North American forests and can thrive in recovering forests such as Saddler's Woods.

Yellow Bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*)

Like woodpeckers, sapsuckers drill into trees except they are looking for sap instead of insects. They have a similar body structure to woodpeckers, clinging to trees comfortably. The Yellow bellied sapsucker is about nine inches all with a white stripe on its side and a red throat and crown. They make a pea-sized round or squarish hole, often in rows on injured trees. Sapsuckers create sap wells on trees that may provide food for up to 35 other bird species, rodents, bats butterflies, and other insects. Twenty percent of its diet is sap, the other eighty percent is of insects and fruit.

