

The Law: All wildlife, including woodpeckers, are protected by local, state, and federal regulations. It is unlawful to keep indigenous animals as pets or to harm them maliciously.



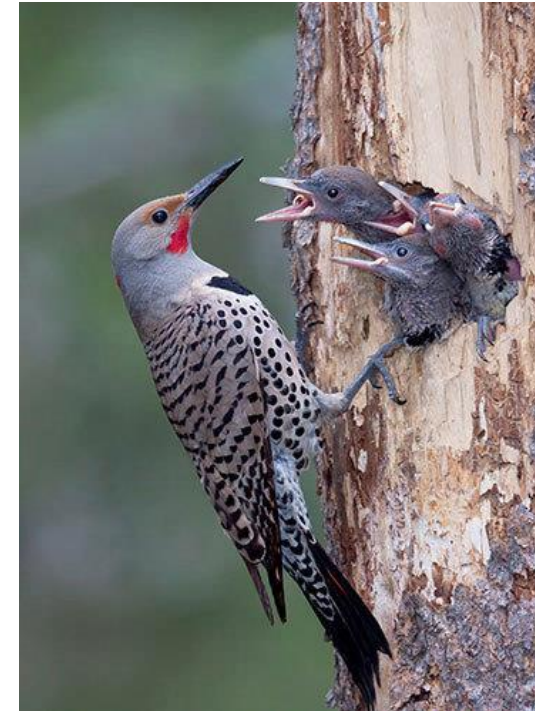
NORTHERN COLORADO  
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# Living with **WOODPECKERS**

Humane solutions to living in  
coexistence with woodpeckers



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### **Description:**

Woodpeckers are multicolored birds that are known for their elongated, pointed beaks. They can often be found tapping on trees while they look for insects inside bark and tree cavities.

**Length:** 6-10 inches

**Weight:** 90-200 oz

### **Habitat:**

Woodpeckers often prefer forest habitats with large quantities of trees. They can also be found in suburban neighborhoods or parks.

### **Food:**

Woodpeckers are omnivorous and can be found eating fruits and seeds; however, these birds largely prefer insects such as mealworms, ants, and beetles.

### **Problems Associated with Woodpeckers:**

The main conflict that involves woodpeckers usually arises when the birds start tapping or drilling into structures such as barns, houses, or sheds.

### **Solutions:**

HABITAT MODIFICATION- Control of woodpeckers requires awareness and sensitivity to potential problems before they get out of hand. Placing fake owls, wind chimes, balloons, or Mylar tape in areas that the birds have showed interest in can help to deter them from returning.



REPAIR DAMAGES QUICKLY- Use putty, siding, or metal flashing to repair damages caused by woodpeckers. If able, paint over putty or siding with polyurethane or oil-based paints. This will help deter insects from using the area as a nesting site which is often what attracts woodpeckers.



FRIGHTENING- Often woodpeckers can be evicted from houses, porches, and barns by using motion detecting flood lights or automatic noise makers. Always make sure the animal has an escape route available before starting eviction. A hose or shouting can also be used to frighten the bird away; however, you must be sure to not physically harm the animal.