

DOWNY WOODPECKER



- Weight: up to one ounce
- Length: 6 to 7 inches
- Wingspan: 10 to 12 inches
- Habitat: Open woodlands, particularly among deciduous trees, with brushy or weedy edges. Also found in city parks, backyards and other suburban areas.
- Behavior: The downy woodpecker will hitch around tree limbs and trunks or drop into tall weeds to feed. They also like suet in backyard bird feeders.
- Commonly found at Mead Garden.

HAIRY WOODPECKER

The hairy woodpecker looks very similar to the downy woodpecker, but is a couple of inches taller. It is much less common than the downy.

- Weight: 1.5 to 3.5 ounces
- Length: 7 to 10 inches
- Wingspan: 13 to 16 inches
- Habitat: Lives in mature forests but are also found in woodlots, suburbs, parks.
- Rarely seen in Mead Garden

THE RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER



- Weight: 1.5 to 1.8 ounces
- Length: 8 to 9 inches
- Wingspan: 14 inches
- Status: Endangered
- Habitat: Open pine forest, especially longleaf pine forests or savannahs. Nests only in live pine trees.
- Behavior: Pecks at loose bark on pines to find insects underneath. Also probes crevices in rotting wood.
- Action for protection: The population has declined substantially due to its very specific habitat requirements. Protection of longleaf pine forests and savannahs in which fire occurs regularly is essential to their survival.
- Fun Fact: The "cockade" of the red-cockaded woodpecker is the tiny red line on the side of the head of the male.
- This endangered species is not typically found in Mead Botanical Garden, but can be seen in several preserves in Orange and Osceola counties.

NORTHERN FLICKER



- Weight: 4 to 5.5 ounces
- Length: 11 to 12 inches
- Wingspan: 16 to 21 inches
- Habitat: Open habitats near trees, including woodlands, edges, yards, and parks.
- Behavior: Spends much time foraging on the ground. Often feeds on ants.
- Fun Fact: It is one of the few North American woodpeckers that is strongly migratory.
- Uncommon in Mead Garden, but can be seen year-round.

Sources and Further Information:

Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds by J. Bull and J. Farrand

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Woodpeckers, <http://www.ct.gov/DEep/cwp/view.asp?a=2723&q=416874&deepNav_GID=1655>

Cornell Lab of Ornithology
< <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/search>>

The Sibley Guide to Birds by David Allen Sibley. Knopf: New York, 2001

Discover the Woodpeckers of Central Florida



A Guide to Woodpecker Identification and Their Habitat



Mead Botanical Garden
Winter Park, Florida

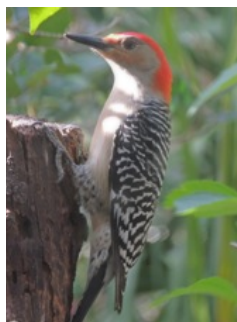
Woodpeckers are distinctive and beautiful birds. They vary widely in size and color, but all woodpeckers cling to the sides of tree and use their bills to find insects to eat. Their eating habits help to control insect populations.

Listen for the tapping or drumming sounds they make when they rapidly strike their bills against trees. This may be done to attract a mate, or to establish territory. **Look** for their distinct behaviors and for the holes they make in trees.

Discover what woodpeckers need to live in Central Florida. These birds depend on mature trees for nesting and finding food. Trees in our suburbanized areas help to provide them with means for survival.

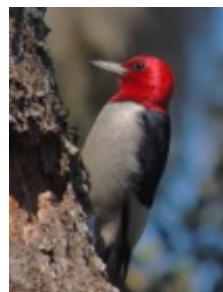
Walk through **Mead Botanical Garden**, a 48-acre natural space in Winter Park, Florida. Six (6) species of woodpeckers can be seen regularly in this garden. Can you find them?

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER



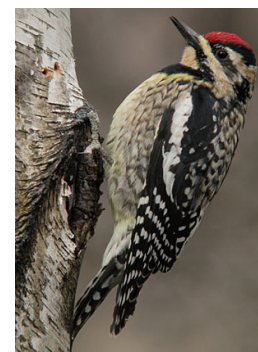
- Weight: 2 to 3 ounces
- Length: 9 to 10 inches
- Wingspan: 15 to 18 inches
- Habitat: Mature forests, woodlands, and wooded suburbs.
- Behavior: Can wedge large nuts into bark crevices, then whack them into pieces using their beaks. They also use cracks in trees and fence posts to store food.
- The red-bellied woodpecker is extending its range northward, and populations are increasing.
- Fun fact: Red-bellied woodpeckers love to visit bird feeders.
- Commonly found in Mead Garden.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER



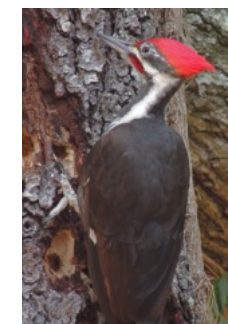
- Weight: 2 to 3 ounces
- Length: 8.5 to 9.5 inches
- Wingspan: 16 to 18 inches
- Appearance: Look for the entirely red head and neck.
- Status: Population has declined steadily since 1980 due to loss of habitat.
- Habitat: Pine savannahs and other open forests with clear understories, as well as open areas with few trees.
- Behavior: Often fly to the ground to capture insects or catch them in the air.
- Action for protection: snags should be retained in forested areas and along woodland openings. Maintaining open woodlots, old fields, and pasture land is important to their survival.
- May be seen in Mead Garden.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER



- Weight: 1.5 to 1.9 ounces
- Length: 8.5 inches
- Wingspan: 13 to 16 inches
- Habitat: Both hardwood and conifer forests.
- Behavior: Perch upright on trees, leaning on their tails like other woodpeckers. They create neat rows of shallow holes by drilling in tree bark. Then they lap up the sugary sap along with any insects that may get caught there.
- Fun fact: this is the quietest of all woodpeckers, making only soft calls.
- Commonly found in Mead Garden during the winter.

PILEATED WOODPECKER



- Weight: 8 to 12 ounces
- Length: 16 to 19 inches
- Wingspan: 26 to 30 inches
- Appearance: Largest of the common woodpeckers in North America
- Habitat: Mature forests that have large, standing dead trees and downed wood. Forests can be evergreen, deciduous, or mixed.
- Behavior: Drill holes in rotten wood to get at carpenter ants and other insects. They are loud birds with whinnying calls. They also drum on dead trees in a deep, slow, rolling pattern.
- Fun fact: The holes these birds make can provide shelter to many other species including swifts, owls, ducks, and bats.
- Commonly seen at Mead Garden.