

Black-backed Woodpecker

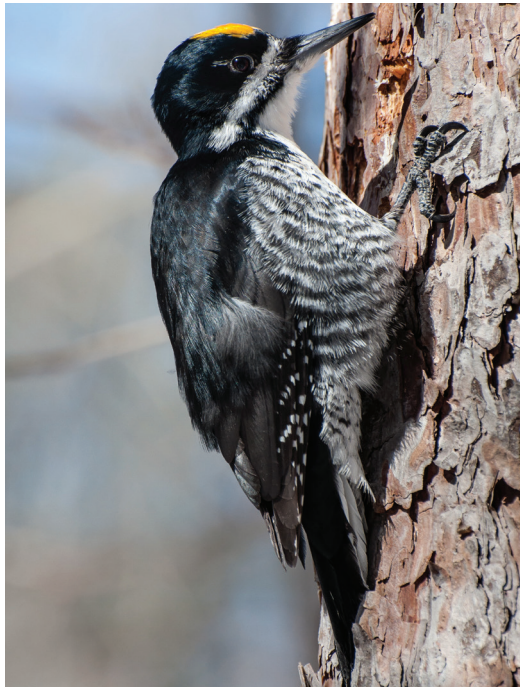


Photo: Karen Hooper

IDENTIFICATION AND SONG Robin-sized woodpecker with solid black back, barred sides, and white chest. Male has yellow crown. Calls are a sharp, fast, harsh kyik and a scolding rattle. Also regular drumming like other woodpeckers. Uncommon year-round resident in Northern Maine.

NEST Excavates cavity in relatively sound, tall conifer snags, rarely in live trees.

FOOD Excavates under loose bark of softwoods for wood-boring beetle larvae.

TERRITORY SIZE Average of 370 acres in Quebec.

FOREST CONDITION Prefers flooded, burned, or old spruce–fir forests with available cavity trees (>12" DBH, >60' tall, relatively sound softwoods preferred), where tree mortality has led to an abundance of wood- and bark-boring insects. Prefers foraging in areas dominated by tall conifers and medium or higher canopy cover (>50%).

FOREST HABITAT ASSOCIATION Prefers *Northern Softwood* forest.

HABITAT AGE CLASS Prefers *older* forest (dominant trees 70-100 years old and 10-16" diameter).

HABITAT FEATURES



LAYERS Light gray lines divide overstory (>30'), midstory (6–30'), and understory (<6'), and are not to scale

← **BIRD** Layer where bird typically seen and/or where male typically sings

← **NEST** Typical nest type and height

Generalized graphic depicting forest type, age, layer, and any special features where the bird and nest are typically found.

MANAGEMENT NOTES Retain larger snags and potential snags or live trees with decay. Presence of wood-boring beetles essential. In younger stands if snags present.