Black-backed Woodpecker

**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

**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.