



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Volume 24 Issue 4 | July/August 2017

ALL SEASONS
WILD BIRD
STORE

WOODPECKERS SPECIAL EDITION

Pileated Woodpeckers

+ Woodpecker Trouble-Shooting
Woodpecker Trivia

In this issue...

Feeder Favorite	1
Chirps.....	2
Woodpecker Trivia.....	2
Trouble-shooting.....	3
Featured Products	4

BLOOMINGTON

816 West 98th St.
(Clover Center)
Bloomington, MN 55420
952.884.4103

EAGAN

2143 Cliff Rd.
(Cedar Cliff Shopping Center)
Eagan, MN 55122
651.459.0084

MINNETONKA

4759 County Rd. 101
(Westwind Plaza)
Minnetonka, MN 55345
952.935.5892

WHITE BEAR LAKE

2703 East Cty. Hwy. E.
(Cty. Rd. E. and Hwy. 120)
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651.653.8705

WAYZATA & WILD BIRD DELIVERS

15710 Wayzata Blvd.
(394 Frontage Rd.)
Wayzata, MN 55391
952.473.4283

WILDBIRDSTORE.COM

Bird's-Eye View is published to share the joy of backyard birds with All Seasons Wild Bird Store's customers and friends.

FEEDER FAVORITE

Mighty Pileated!

By Guest Contributor MELISSA BLOCK

The Pileated Woodpecker is one of the largest, most striking birds that you may see in your backyard. Pileated Woodpeckers are the size of crows, about 18 inches long, with a 28-inch wingspan. They are black with white stripes down the neck and a bright red crest on the head. Pileated Woodpecker males have a small dark red mustache, while females do not. The red crest is more subdued on females.

Special Features

The bright red crest of a Pileated Woodpecker may be lowered or raised to show different emotions or moods. Also, like most other woodpeckers, they have *zygodactyl* feet—two toes in front and two toes in back. This allows them to grip tightly on vertical surfaces. Finally, Pileated Woodpeckers, as with other woodpeckers, have stiff tail feathers that help them brace against a tree as they hammer away.

Sounds

Oftentimes you can find Pileated Woodpeckers with their loud whinnying

calls—almost like a jungle call—then see them with their undulating flight. Pileated Woodpeckers defend their territory with loud drumming sounds.

Habitat and Food

Pileated Woodpeckers are forest birds that require large, standing dead trees and downed wood. They prefer large trees for nesting.

The Pileated Woodpecker's primary food sources are carpenter ants, other ants, beetle larvae, flies, caterpillars and grasshoppers.

Their beaks are self-sharpening, chisel-like implements that move into the wood rather than stopping abruptly. They use their long, barbed tongues to extract beetle larvae lying deep within a tree. Their very long tongues wrap around their skulls when retracted, (*...continued on page 3*)



Summer Travels

Mid-summer is here and this is typically the time when families take much-needed vacations, whether it be heading to lake for the 4th, going on a summer road trip, or in my case, a fishing trip to Canada with three generations of Netten boys. If your family is like ours, no matter where you venture, birds are always a part of the action in one way or another. It's incredibly interesting to get a feel for the different species as you migrate from local habitats to those less familiar.

For example, I know we'll see Gray Jays where we're headed in northern Ontario and that's not a bird we ever see locally.



Gray Jay

That single new species will create a lot of excitement for us and we'll be interested to learn more about it.

As you venture near and far this summer season, take notice of the changing habitats and of the wildlife that roams and perches there. It's an enriching part of discovering new places and I find it brings our family even closer as our excitement piques and curiosities get aroused. Happy trails and travels.

Al and Dave Netten

P.S. I hope to have an incredible fish story to share in a few weeks. Wink wink.



Worry-Free Guarantee!

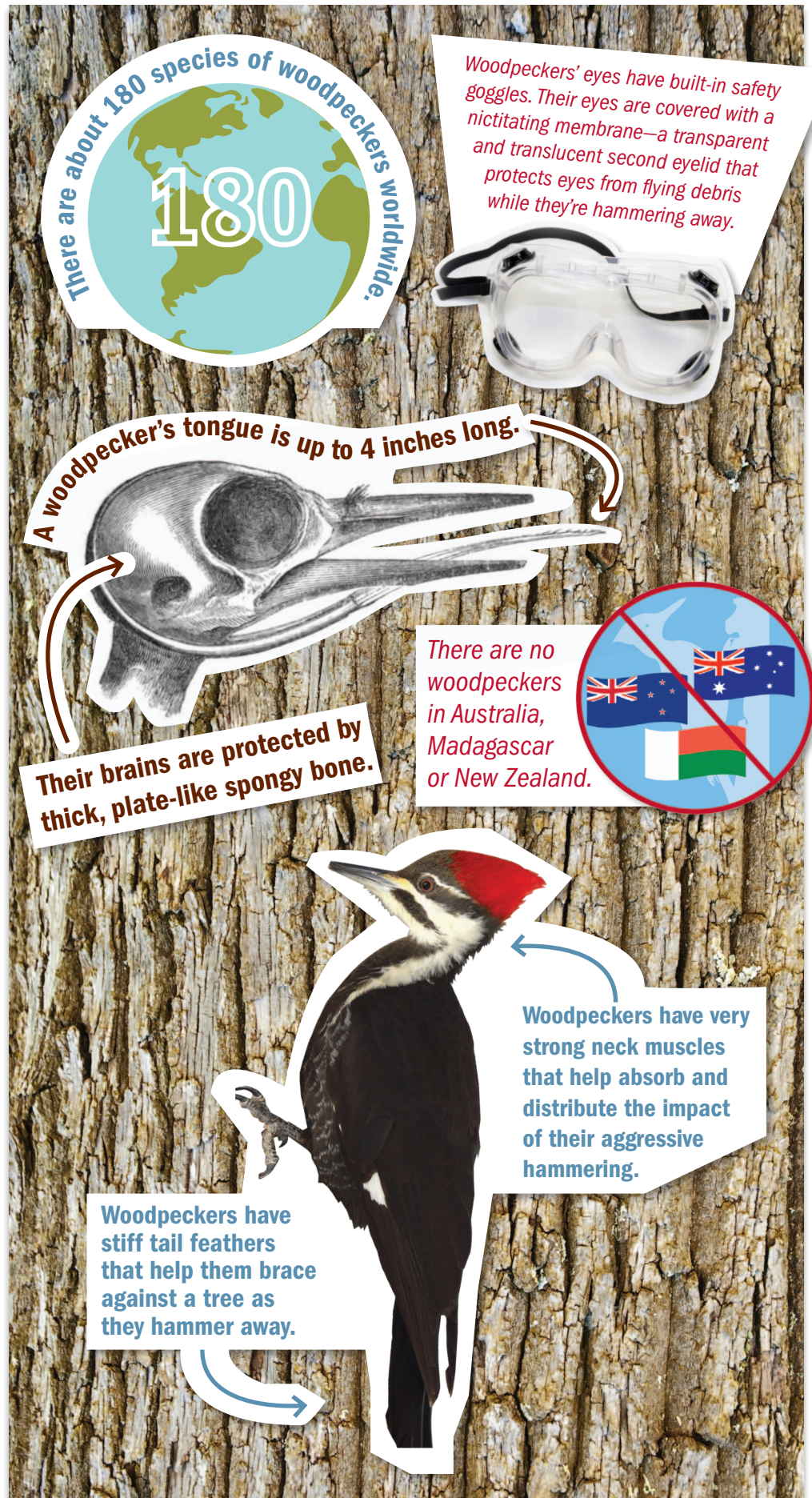
We want our customers to have a worry-free experience with every purchase. If you're not completely satisfied with *any item* purchased from our store, simply return it to us for an exchange or refund.

No worries . . . ever.



Join the conversation online!

Visit our Facebook page to post photos, ask questions and be the first to know about upcoming sales and events.



FEEDER FAVORITE

... continued from page 1

which helps to cushion their brains from all the hammering.

Pileated Woodpeckers make distinctive oblong-shaped holes in rotten wood to extract ants and other insects. They will also eat wild fruits and nuts. The Pileated Woodpecker will also visit backyard feeders for suet and seeds.

Mating and Nesting

A Pileated Woodpecker pair stays together on its territory year-round and is not migratory. They defend their territory in all seasons, usually by loud drumming on a hollow tree, but are a little more tolerant during the winter.

Pileated Woodpeckers most often make their nests in dead trees within a mature or old stand of coniferous or deciduous trees, yet sometimes you can find them in dead trees in younger forests or even in cities.

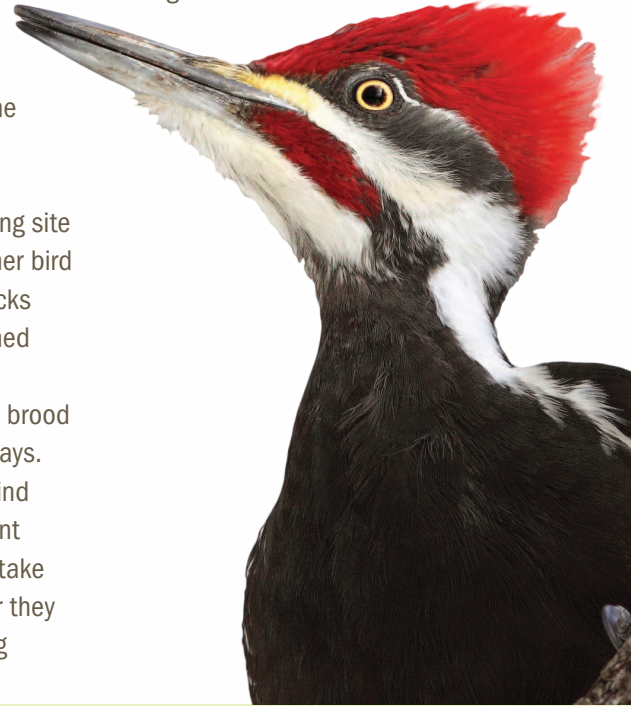
To make a nest, the male begins

excavating the nest cavity and does most of the work. The female does contribute, but mostly as the hole is almost finished, by climbing into the hole and chipping away from inside. The entrance is oblong rather than round. They do not line their nests with anything except the leftover wood chips.

It takes a pair up to 3–6 weeks to complete the nest and the same nesting site is very rarely reused in later years. Other bird species, including swifts, owls and ducks may take advantage of these abandoned nests for shelter.

Pileated Woodpeckers produce one brood of 3–5 eggs. Incubation lasts 16–18 days. The young are born featherless and blind (altricial) and are completely dependent on the parents for food. Both parents take care of the young for 26–28 days after they hatch. Once they leave the nest, young

Pileated Woodpeckers stay close to the parents for several months before moving on and seeking out their own mates at the next mating season. ■



TROUBLE-SHOOTING

Pecking Problems?

By Minnetonka Manager CAROL CHENAULT

Multi-Pronged Approach

Birds are great, except when they're not. And woodpecker damage on your house is definitely not great! We recommend a multi-pronged approach to preventing woodpeckers from pecking on your home because not every method will work every time—you may need to try different things to find what works best.

Seal and Redirect

Woodpeckers can hear the chewing noises made by insect larvae in the wood and feel the vibrations of their movements. Holes drilled in rows across the face of your siding indicate that the woodpeckers are feeding on leaf-cutting bees nesting in tunnels in the plywood. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources recommends sealing these tunnels in addition to deterring the woodpeckers.

Download the DNR Woodpecker Control Guide:

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/backyard/livingwith_wildlife/woodpecker-control.pdf

Redirect woodpeckers from a troublesome location by placing a suet feeder 30 feet out from the house. Woodpeckers will likely find this food source to be a more convenient and attractive alternative to searching for larvae in your siding.

Repel

We have several woodpecker-repelling products in stock, including (but not limited to) flash tape, bird scare balloons and hawk window decals.

Visit any of our stores and talk with one of our local backyard birding experts to help you select a product that's right for you. Also, find our handout on woodpeckers on our website: <http://bit.ly/2stNvnH>. ■

Suet provides an attractive alternative for woodpeckers that may otherwise peck your siding.



How to Welcome Woodpeckers

Try These Year-Round Favorites to Attract Many Species of Woodpeckers

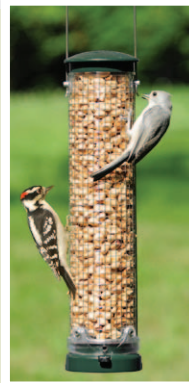
Suet Suitable for Summer

As warmer summer temperatures arrive, you need not give up on feeding suet to your birds. Simply choose a no-melt variety of suet like **Pine Tree Farms Peanut Butter Suet Dough** or **Orange Suet Dough**. If you use a suet log, use **Attractor™** brand **No Melt Peanut Butter plugs**. No-melt suet varieties are formulated to be drier with a more crumbly texture than regular suet cakes and plugs. This texture allows the cake or plug to stand up to summer heat without dripping. Your birds, especially the woodpeckers, will be happy to still find your suet feeder a convenient source of food despite the heat.

Pacific Bird Year-Round Suet cakes are loaded with rendered beef suet, dried mealworms, dried crickets, and black oil sunflower seed providing fat and protein for birds' health. Calcium carbonate is added for strong bones and resilient egg shells.



▲ No-melt suets are perfect for summer feeding



Aspects™ Quick-Clean Peanut Feeder

This popular feeder is made of stainless steel mesh and has an easy-to-remove base for cleaning. The seed diverter at the bottom of the feeder moves the seed toward the mesh, enabling birds to reach every seed or nut. This feeder is designed for acrobatic birds such as woodpeckers, chickadees, nuthatches, and finches; when filled with shelled peanuts, sunflower kernels or black oil sunflower, this feeder is irresistible to entertaining “clinging” birds.

Recycled Double Suet Feeder

Eleven plastic containers were reused to make this feeder! The 5/8-inch recycled poly lumber will not split, crack or rot. The long “tail prop” area allows the Pileated Woodpecker and other woodpeckers space to prop their tail for balance and leverage when feeding. The vinyl-coated, welded mesh is durable and holds two suet cakes, so you can change suet less often. ■



▲ Pileated Woodpecker on recycled double suet feeder

Have an idea for a future issue of *Birds-Eye View*? Photos and articles may be submitted by email to info@wildbirdstore.net.
Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at WildBirdStore.com to receive information about backyard birding, store events and exclusive discounts.