

Have you seen this bird?

Red-headed Woodpecker

Manitoba is home to some of the most outstanding sites in the world for concentrations of birds. The importance of these sites to the maintenance of the world's bird populations is recognized internationally through their designation as Important Bird Areas (IBAs).

We need your help finding this bird. If you see any Red-headed Woodpeckers please contact us at: iba@naturemanitoba.ca

The Red-headed Woodpecker is a boldly patterned bird that is sure to be eye-catching wherever it goes. The ruby-red head, white body, black back and white wings are characteristic of both male and females. They eat both insects and nuts, such as acorns. One of the main reasons for their population decline is a loss of dead standing trees (snags) on the landscape. The Red-headed Woodpecker is a threatened species in Canada and Manitoba due to its population decline.



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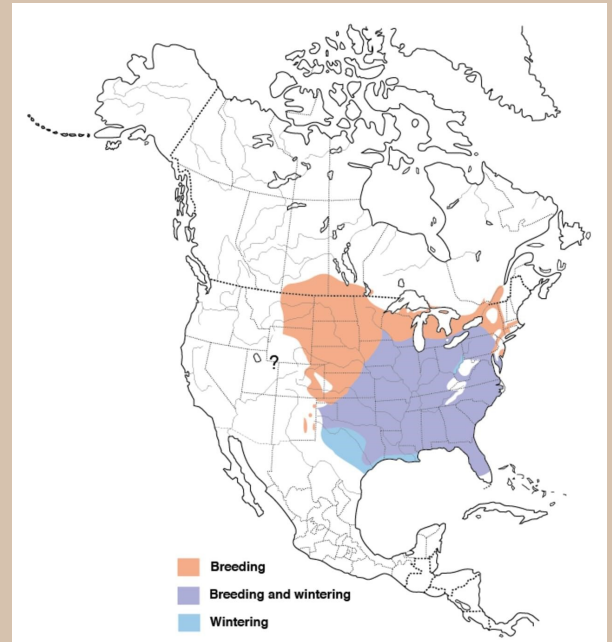
Habitat

- The Red-headed Woodpecker nests in dead trees, notably aspens.
- Ideal habitat includes heavily grazed woodlots or treed cattle pastures.
- Areas with little to no understory or shrub cover are important areas for finding food both in the air and on the ground.



Did you know?

- Red-headed Woodpeckers have declined by more than 2% per year from 1966 to 2014, resulting in a total decline of 70%, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey.
- The Red-headed Woodpecker is one of only four North American woodpeckers known to store food, and it is the only one known to cover the stored food with wood or bark. It hides insects and seeds in cracks in wood, under bark, in fenceposts, and under roof shingles.
- They nest in dead trees or dead parts of live trees including aspens, pines, maples, birches, cottonwoods, and oaks - in areas with little vegetation on the ground. Red-headed Woodpeckers may also excavate holes in utility poles, live branches, or buildings. Unlike many woodpeckers, Red-headed Woodpeckers often reuse a nest cavity several years in a row.



- Both partners help build the nest, though the male does most of the excavation. He often starts with a crack in the wood, digging out a gourd-shaped cavity usually in 12 to 17 days.

Sources

- https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-headed_Woodpecker
- https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-headed_Woodpecker/maps-range

*Connecting people to nature in order to protect
essential bird habitat in Manitoba's IBAs.*

<https://importantbirdareasm.ca/>

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