

# The Wonderful World of WOODPECKERS

## FANCY FEATHERS

Woodpeckers worldwide sport a wide range of colorful and patterned plumage, from lace-like details to bright blocks of color. Black-and-white feathers feature prominently in many species, but so do red, yellow, green, and all the shades between!

## WOODPECKERS BIG AND SMALL

At a whopping 50 cm (20 inches), the Great Slaty Woodpecker is the largest woodpecker in the world. The smallest is the tiny Bar-breasted Piculet. It weighs the same as a pencil and measures 7.5 cm (3 inches)!

Mexico  
**Imperial Woodpecker**  
*Campephilus imperialis*

Last seen in 1956 and probably extinct, the Imperial Woodpecker (about 56 cm or 22 inches) would have surely stolen the crown for largest woodpecker. The female's curly black crest actually bounced as she climbed up tree trunks.

Southeast Asia  
**Great Slaty Woodpecker**  
*Mulleripicus pulverulentus*

Southeast Asia  
**Greater Yellownape**  
*Chrysophlegma flavinucha*

Southeast Asia  
**Black-headed Woodpecker**  
*Picus erythropygius*

South America  
**Bar-breasted Piculet**  
*Picumnus aurifrons*

Cuba  
**Fernandina's Flicker**  
*Colaptes fernandinae*

Philippines  
**Yellow-faced Flameback**  
*Chrysocolaptes xanthocephalus*

East Africa  
**Nubian Woodpecker**  
*Campethera nubica*

The Nubian Woodpecker is a good representative for many similar woodpeckers found in Africa which have green wings, spotted or striped fronts, and red on the back of the head.

South America  
**Cream-colored Woodpecker**  
*Celeus flavus*

Brazil  
**Kaempfer's Woodpecker**  
*Celeus obrieni*

Kaempfer's Woodpecker was considered extinct for 80 years, but was found again in remote Brazil in 2006. Heart-shaped wing spots and a rich cinnamon crest stand out as it drills into bamboo looking for ant nests.

Europe, Russia  
**Great Spotted Woodpecker**  
*Dendrocopos major*

The Great Spotted Woodpecker has an incredibly large range, from Great Britain and the Canary Islands to far eastern Russia and the South China Sea in Asia.

North and Central America  
**Acorn Woodpecker**  
*Melanerpes formicivorus*

Acorn Woodpeckers live in family groups of up to a dozen or more birds. Together they gather and store acorns in a "granary tree." They also share responsibility for guarding their stash of acorns and raising young.

South Africa and Lesotho  
**Ground Woodpecker**  
*Geocolaptes olivaceus*

Not much of a tree lover, the Ground Woodpecker lives in terrain with sparse vegetation and makes its nest by digging into earthen or rocky banks.

