

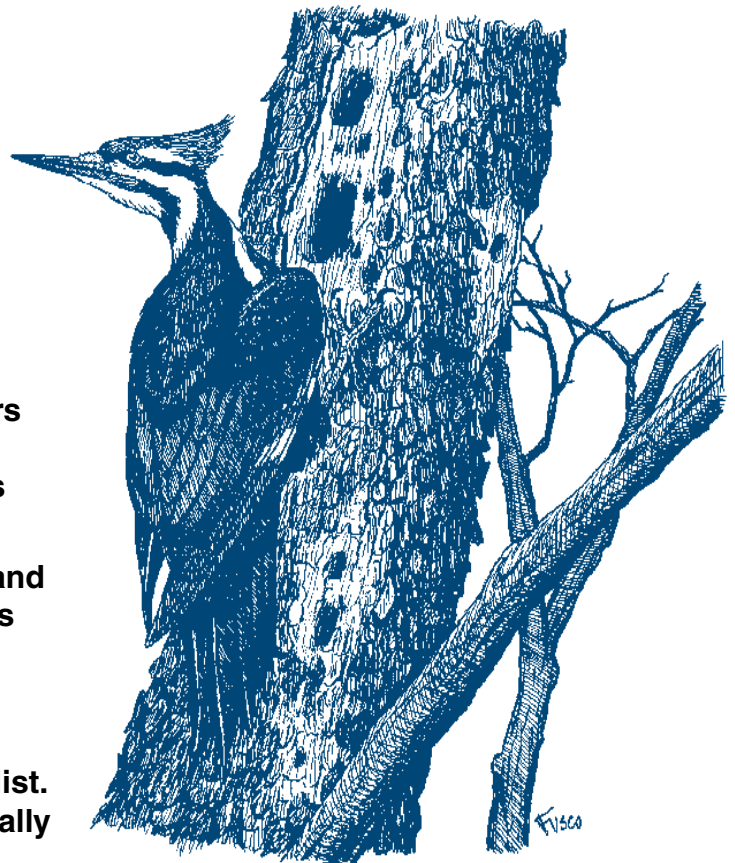
# Just for Kids

## Watching Woodpeckers

There are seven different types of woodpeckers in Connecticut, ranging in size from the large pileated (19 inches) to the small downy woodpecker (6 inches). Most are patterned black and white, except the northern flicker which flashes yellow feathers under the wing and tail while in flight. Woodpeckers are striking birds that are often seen and great fun to watch!

### Stick out your tongue!

Woodpeckers that eat insects have really long tongues. The end of the tongue is barbed like a bee's stinger, which helps the woodpecker pull out insects from holes. The tongue is also very sticky to hold onto the insects.



### Questions & More Questions

Do woodpeckers eat only insects? No. Sapsuckers also eat sap from trees. (Wonder if it's as tasty as maple syrup!) Many woodpeckers also eat acorns and fruit, such as berries.

Which woodpecker is often seen in schoolyards and lawns? The Northern flicker. This woodpecker eats mostly ants it finds along the ground.

Are there any endangered woodpeckers? One of Connecticut's woodpeckers, the Red-headed woodpecker, is on the state endangered species list. The Ivory-billed woodpecker, of the south, is actually very close to extinction.

### ***Knock, Knock, Knock .....***

*Woodpeckers peck on wood to "talk" to one another, look for insects and make nesting cavities. All of Connecticut's woodpeckers nest in tree holes.*

### **Try this at home:**

*Make a suet patty for the birds. Take beef suet (your local meat counter should have some) and melt it in a pan. Add chunky peanut butter and stir together. Hang it outside during cold weather and watch for woodpeckers.*