

WHAT ARE THE STANDARD PROTECTION MEASURES THAT ARE REQUIRED?

The Seminole Tribe of Florida is required by the Federal Endangered Species Act to abide by standard measures adopted to protect this endangered bird:

1. A red cockaded woodpecker protection/education plan has been developed which requires training for all construction crews.
2. A qualified observer/biologist will be on-site for notification by construction personnel if a woodpecker is sighted.
3. If a woodpecker is found on the construction site, all activity must cease immediately, the qualified observer must be notified, and the bird allowed to move away from any dangerous area on its own.



WHO DO YOU CONTACT IF YOU SEE A RED COCKADED WOODPECKER ON THE RESERVATION ?

Contact your direct supervisor

You may also contact::

Seminole Tribe of Florida's
Wildlife Biologist
Office: (863)902-3249 x13411
Cell: (954)410-7073



*Seminole Tribe of Florida
Environmental Resource
Management Department*

**Red Cockaded
Woodpecker**
Picoides borealis



Protecting Tribal Resources

WHAT IS A RED COCKADED WOODPECKER?



The red cockaded woodpecker is a territorial, non-migratory bird. Individuals live in groups normally consisting of a breeding pair and one to four male offspring from previous years. These offspring assist in incubating eggs, feeding, and brooding.

This social system is referred to as cooperative breeding.



The primary habitat of the red cockaded woodpecker is the long-leaf pine ecosystem. This suitable habitat has been reduced by 3% of its original expanse.

Reduction of suitable habitat has caused this species to be reduced by 99% since the time of European settlement. The woodpecker was listed as endangered in 1970 and received the protection of the Endangered Species Act in 1973.

HOW CAN YOU IDENTIFY A RED COCKADED WOODPECKER?



Adults are about 8.5 inches in length and have a wingspan of 14 inches. Its back is barred with black and white horizontal stripes (above). The red cockaded woodpecker most distinguishing feature is the black cap and nape that encircle the large cheek patches. Rarely visible, except perhaps during the breeding season and periods of territorial defense, the male has a small red streak on each side of its black cap called a “cockade”, hence its name (below).



Photograph by Joel Sartore, photographed at the North Carolina Zoo

WHERE DO THEY NEST AND WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?



Red cockaded woodpeckers make their homes in mature pine forest, most commonly in longleaf pines. The red cockaded woodpecker is the only species to excavate cavities, exclusively in living pine trees. Cavities generally take 1 to 3 years to excavate. Cavity trees that are being actively used have numerous small resins which will exude sap. The birds keep the sap flowing, apparently as a cavity defense mechanism against rat snakes and other possible predators.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU SEE A RED COCKADED WOODPECKER?

If you encounter a woodpecker, avoid all contact with it. If you are driving a vehicle or heavy equipment, stop, cease operation and allow the bird to fly out of the area. Do not harm or harass the bird in any way. Please contact your supervisor or the number at the back of this pamphlet and report the location and sighting.