

NATUREX kids

news FOR

There are nine species (kinds) of woodpeckers found in Wisconsin.

- red-headed woodpecker
- red-bellied woodpecker
- yellow-bellied sapsucker
- downy woodpecker
- hairy woodpecker
- American three-toed woodpecker
- black-backed woodpecker
- northern flicker
- pileated woodpecker

Look for the bold words in the word search puzzle.

Woodpeckers (Order Piciformes)

There are about 200 species of woodpeckers found throughout the world. They come in all different sizes. The smallest one is the bar-breasted piculet of South America, which is about three inches long. The largest woodpecker was the imperial woodpecker of Mexico, which was 23 inches long. Bird scientists think this species may now be extinct (none left).

Woodpeckers are amazing animals. They can peck 20 times every second. They have a specially designed head that keeps them from getting brain damage. Woodpeckers' brains are protected by a skull of spongy bone, and they have special muscles in their necks to make the force of the hit go into the body rather than just the head. When a woodpecker hits a tree, it hits it straight without any twisting.

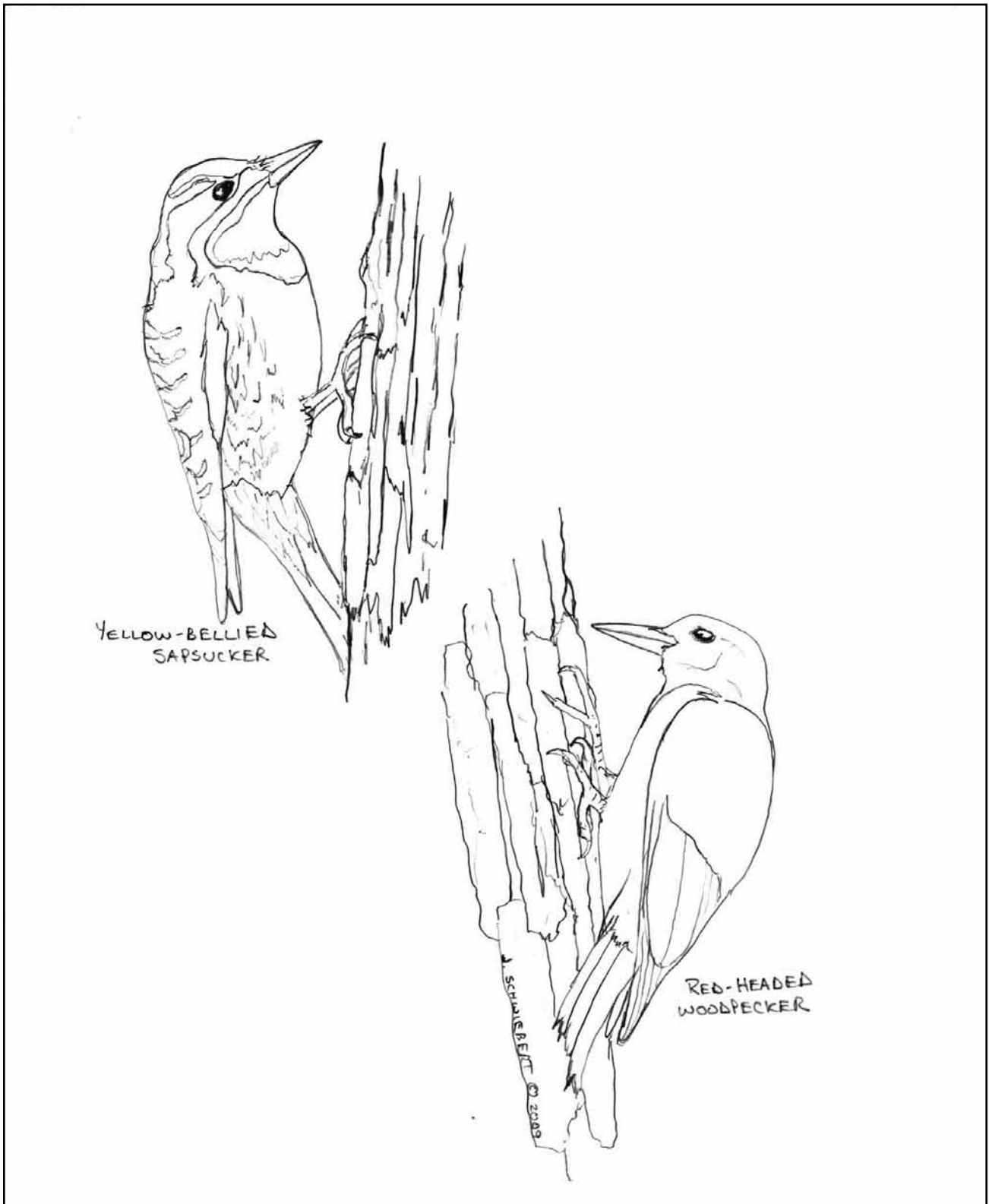
Most woodpeckers have zygodactyl feet. This means two toes point forward and two toes point backward. This helps the woodpecker grab onto the trunk of the tree. Woodpeckers also have two very important middle tail feathers. These feathers are very stiff and push against the tree, helping to hold the woodpecker steady while it pecks. These feathers are so important that the old worn feather will not fall out until the new feather is completely grown in. They also have special feathers that grow over the nostrils to keep pieces of wood from going up the woodpecker's nose.



H	S	A	P	S	U	C	K	E	R
A	B	P	U	T	D	O	W	N	Y
I	E	T	C	H	E	H	L	E	E
R	L	I	R	K	T	D	B	H	L
Y	L	B	F	S	A	O	N	C	L
L	I	L	B	B	E	K	E	I	O
D	E	A	Z	X	L	H	F	D	W
E	D	C	F	L	I	C	K	E	R
R	E	K	C	E	P	D	O	O	W

Most woodpeckers eat insects that are found on or inside trees. They use their long sticky tongues to get the grubs out of the wood. Some woodpeckers eat acorns and fruit and the flickers' favorite snack is ants.

Woodpecker watching can be tricky. Woodpeckers are good at scooting around to the backside of the tree when you are coming towards them. The next time you are at the park or in the woods watch the tree trunks for woodpeckers moving around looking for insects on the tree.



Yellow-bellied sapsucker

Head - top of head and under beak = red
Stripe through the eye and under red patch = black
Body: belly = light yellow
back = black and white stripes
tail = black

Red-headed woodpecker

Head - all bright red
Body - back and tail = black
belly and lower wings = white