

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker



Photo: Richard Fournier

IDENTIFICATION AND CALL Smaller black-and-white patterned woodpecker with black bib and pale yellow wash on breast, red forehead and throat, and long white stripe along wing. Call a repeated nasal mew or a squealing quee-ah. Drumming more irregular and slower than other woodpeckers, often in bursts of five rapid taps followed by slower double taps, sounding like Morse code. Found statewide.

NEST In tree cavity with small entrance. Often uses live hardwood trees with heartwood decay that makes excavation easier.

FOOD Feeds on sap from a variety of woody plant species, insects, fruits, and seeds. Drills neatly organized rows of sap wells along trunks.

TERRITORY SIZE Variable, 2.5–7.5 acres.

FOREST CONDITION Prefers high percentage of shade-intolerant species, especially larger aspen, alder and birch. Requires hardwoods with central decay column or snags for nest cavities.

FOREST HABITAT ASSOCIATION Prefers *Northern Hardwood*, but will use Oak Pine and Northern Mixedwood forest.

HABITAT AGE CLASS Prefers *older* forest (dominant trees 70-100 years old and 10-16" diameter), but will use *intermediate* forest (dominant trees 20-70 years old and 5-10" diameter).

HABITAT FEATURES



LAYERS Light gray lines divide overstory (>30'), midstory (6–30'), and understory (<6'), and are not to scale

← **BIRD** Layer where bird typically seen and/or where male typically sings

← **NEST** Typical nest type and height

Generalized graphic depicting forest type, age, layer, and any special features where the bird and nest are typically found.

MANAGEMENT NOTES Retain larger snags and potential snags or live trees with decay, especially aspen and birch. Will use intermediate forest if snags are present.