

Woodpeckers of Herefordshire Survey Sheet\*

Name .....

Address .....

Telephone ..... Email .....

Date	Species	Location (Grid reference if known, postcode and description)	Tree species/ habitat	Observed behaviour (Flying, drumming, feeding, etc.)	Nest located?
19.01.10	Green	Tom's orchard (NE corner) Bromyard Downs SO666554	Perry pear tree in cider orchard next to stream	Feeding on decaying fruit wedged between branches	Yes - in dead wood cavity 2m above ground level

\*Please note: by sending in this information you agree that it may be used in accordance with HBRC's policies. Contact details will be used in accordance with the HBRC privacy statement (copies available upon request).

Please tick here if you would not like to be contacted further.

Please send your completed survey sheet to:  
Woodpeckers of Herefordshire  
c/o Herefordshire Biodiversity Partnership, Herefordshire Council, PO Box 4, Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4 0XH

For more information on this project, how to get involved or how to identify woodpeckers, please visit these websites: [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/herfordbap](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/herfordbap)  
[www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)  
[www.bto.org](http://www.bto.org)

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Nicky Davies on 01432 383026 or email: [woodpeckers@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:woodpeckers@herefordshire.gov.uk)

Please return your Woodpecker survey sheet by the end of 2010. We welcome observations taken outside of the breeding season. More copies of this leaflet are available from the Woodpeckers of Herefordshire project at the above address.

Also, please note that nesting woodpeckers are protected by law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) so please take care not to cause any damage or disturbance at the nests.

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# Woodpeckers of Herefordshire Help Herefordshire Save The Woodpeckers

## Identification Guide 1

**Lesser spotted woodpecker**  
*Dendrocopus minor*  
Status: ●Red



Female lesser spotted woodpecker with juvenile

**Length 15 cm** – The size of a sparrow. Scarce and elusive localised resident.

**Features** – The main plumage is black and white, with conspicuous barring on wings and back. In adults, the male has a crimson crown while the female's cap is dull white.

**Behaviour** – They have inconspicuous habits, spending most of their time in the very tops of trees, feeding as they creep along branches or flutter from branch to branch. They are especially attracted to mature oaks and elms scattered about country parks but also visit orchards and alder carrs.

**Call** – The call is often a *pee-pee-pee* weak call and sometimes a weaker *'tchik'*. Drums often in the spring but longer lasting and not as loud as the other woodpeckers with 10-30 blows over a few seconds.



Male lesser spotted woodpecker

Some species of Woodpecker are on the RSPB Red and Amber conservation priority lists, which means their populations are in big trouble in the UK.

Woodpeckers love old orchards and woodland margins, but increased orchard management and woodland clearance have fragmented and reduced these habitats.

As the historical home of cider making and the location of the world's largest cider makers, Herefordshire has the highest number and density of orchards in the UK as well as a high proportion of woodlands. What we do here can make a big difference to woodpecker numbers on a national scale.

By encouraging landowners to maintain woodpecker-friendly habitats in their orchards and woodlands and making sure there are plenty of nesting boxes, we aim to stabilise and then increase the woodpecker populations in Herefordshire.

**But first, we need your help to find out where the woodpeckers are living. Please record any woodpeckers you see - to help you, we've provided this identification guide and survey sheet.**

## 🔍 Identification Guide 2

### Great spotted woodpecker

*Dendrocopos major*

Status: ● Green

**Length 23 cm** – The size of a starling. The commonest of these three species, with widespread distribution in all habitats.

**Features** – Striking black and white back, wings and tail are black, except for the large white shoulder patches and smaller white spots on the wings. The sexes are similar except that the male has a red patch on the nape and the female does not.

**Behaviour** – It has a very distinctive bouncing flight and spends most of its time clinging to tree trunks and branches.

**Call** – The call is a sharp ‘tchick’ with various trills and titters. Drumming is frequent in spring with 8-10 blows lasting for a few seconds.



Male great spotted woodpecker

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Male great spotted woodpecker with juvenile (right)



Female great spotted woodpecker

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Male green woodpecker

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## 🔍 Identification Guide 3

### Green woodpecker

*Picus viridis*

Status: ● Amber

**Length 32 cm** – Bigger than a blackbird, but smaller than a jackdaw. The largest of the three species of woodpecker found in Britain. A fairly common but localised breeding bird.

**Features** – The birds have a green back and wings, yellowish rump and whitish underparts. The crown and nape are red. The male’s black moustache has a red centre while the female’s is all black.

**Behaviour** – They are not totally arboreal (tree dwelling) and will be seen feeding on the ground.

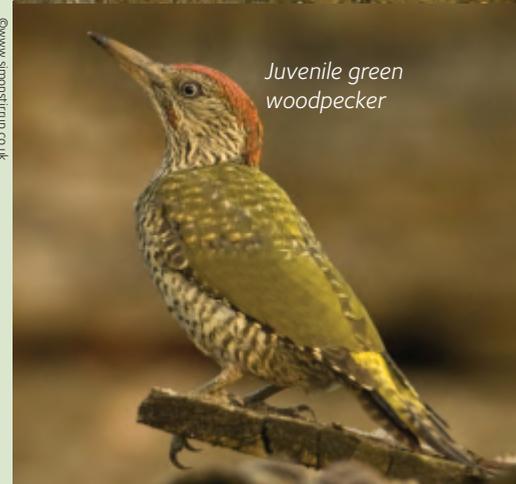
**Call** – They are also easily recognised by their laughing ‘yaffle’ call which is unlike the other woodpeckers. They do drum, but their drumming is neither as resonant nor harsh as the other two species, nor as frequent – they rely on their laugh to demarcate their territory.

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Female green woodpecker



Juvenile green woodpecker