

Outdoor Recreation

is

Outdoor Education

Learning About New Mexico's Wildlife Northern Flicker

Northern flicker

Tok-tok-tok! Perhaps you have heard the staccato sound of a colorful flicker as it drills into a tree, or even the wood trim of your house, in search of insects. One must admire the appearance and bravado of this woodpecker.

The Northern flicker, *Colaptes auratus*, also known as the red-shafted flicker, yellow-shafted flicker or gilded-shafted flicker, is a foot-long bird. You can see its white rump and its red markings under its wings and tail when it flies. It has a unique way, when disturbed, of bowing and swinging its body back and forth on an elevated perch.

Flickers have a black crescent across the chest and many round black patches on their feathers. The male has a red "mustache;" the female a brown one.



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

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