

FLICKER HOUSE



The Northern flicker is a member of the woodpecker family that primarily lives in open country with trees, farmland, orchards, and woodland edges. The species may also populate suburban areas, land near rivers and streams, and deserts with giant saguaro cacti. Its call is a loud, repeated flicker, flicker, flicker.

This woodpecker generally feeds on the ground, searching for insects, such as ants (about half their diet) and beetles. In the winter, they may come to a feeder for suet and peanut butter, and they will also eat wild fruits and berries. The flicker may use a nest box as a roosting place during winter months, so it is good to put up a nesting box even in the fall.

Woodpeckers excavate their own cavities, and some will utilize a nest box. Flickers and other woodpeckers do not bring in nesting material, as they generally excavate holes in rotted wood where the soft wood makes good nesting material. Placing wood chips 1" to 2" deep in the nest box may serve as a means to attract them. This house comes with a bag of wood chips inside.

One of the best things you can do for flickers, as well as many other bird species, is to avoid cutting down old, dead trees, or even dead branches. These trees provide woodpeckers with insects and nesting locations. Woodpeckers do not excavate live wood, and all other cavity nesting birds depend on woodpeckers to make nesting holes for them, using them after the woodpeckers have moved on to a new site.

MOUNTING YOUR FLICKER HOUSE

1. Choose a mounting location between 10' to 20' high on a tree or post, over a dense area of shrubs and small trees, preferably at the edge of a wooded area. In an area where starlings are plentiful, you may want to set up several houses so they can have their own and leave the flickers alone, as they are an aggressive competitor for nesting sites.
2. On the back of the house is a metal hanger at the top and a pre-drilled hole at the bottom. Put a nail or screw into the side of a tree or post, with the head sticking out about 1/4". Place the metal hanger over the nail or screw. Put another nail or screw through the hole at the bottom of the back piece and into the tree or post to fasten the house securely. Empty the bag of wood chips into the house.
3. Your Coveside feeder has not been painted or stained. Over time, the outside will darken, turn gray, and eventually blend in with the environment. Should you wish to paint or stain, it is critical to only use water-based stain or paint. Oil-based paints and stains are toxic to birds. It is also important to stay away from dark colors that may cause the nest box to become too hot for nestlings. A light, seasonal, external coating of boiled linseed oil is a highly effective non-toxic preservative.



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