











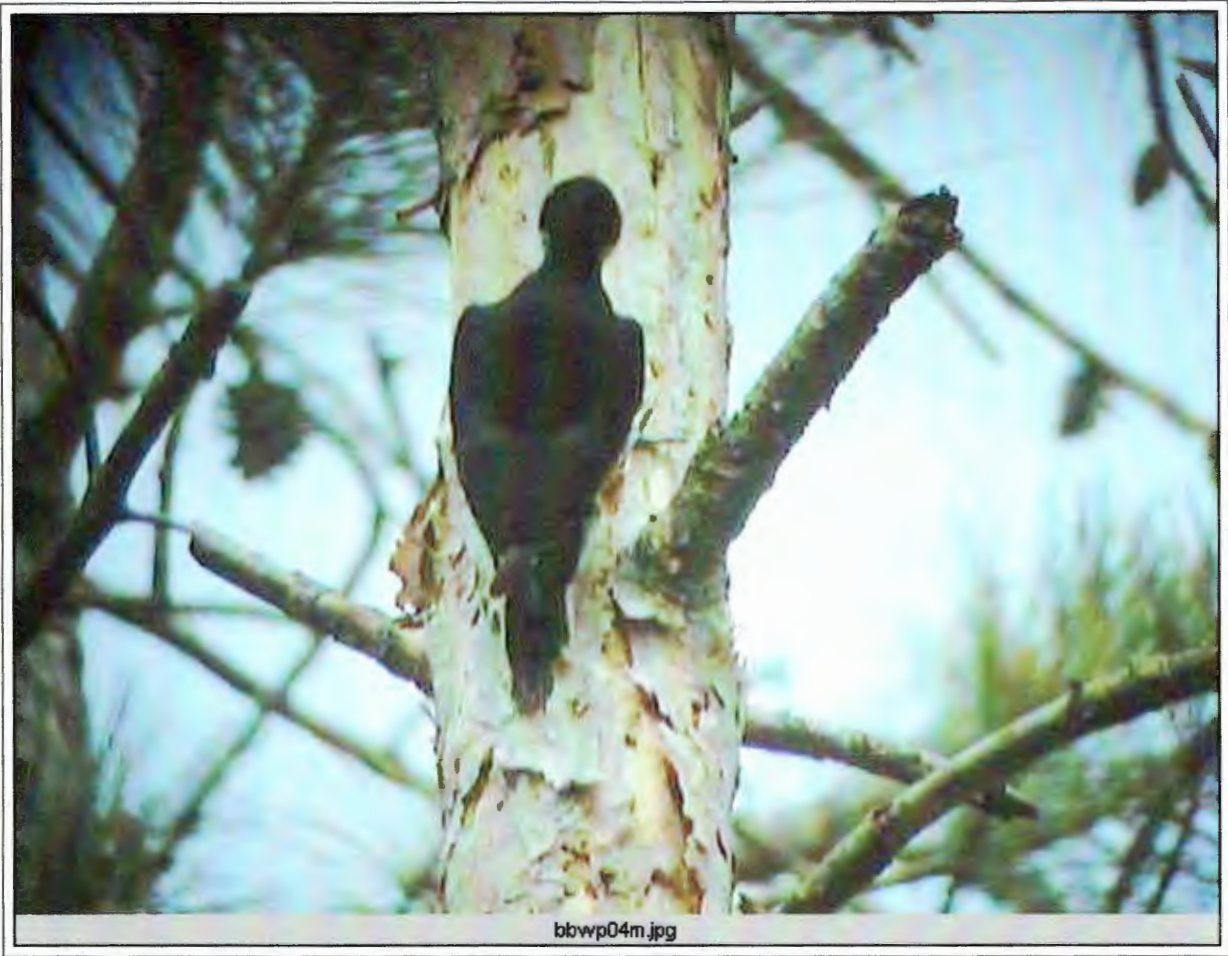
bbwp08m.jpg

Black-backed Woodpecker  
5/3/01  
PEEC, Pike Co  
Mark McCarty



Black-backed Woodpecker  
5/3/01  
PEEC, Pike Co  
Mark McCaughy





Black-backed Woodpecker  
5/3/01  
PEEC, Pike Co  
Mark McConaghy



*Black-backed Woodpecker*

*5/3/01*

*PEEC, Pike Co*

*Mark McConaughy*



Black-backed Woodpecker  
5/3/01  
P&EE, Pike Co  
Mark McConaghy



-PICOIDES ARCTICUS - RARE BIRD REPORT

Species: BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER Date of this Observation: STILL PRESENT

Date Found: 3-6-01 Last Date Seen: STILL PRESENT AS OF 4/27/01

Location: POCONO ENVIRONMENTAL ED. CENTER.

Township/City: DINGMANS FERRY County: PIKE

Person Writing this report: PATRICK SCHEUER (PEEC NATURALIST)

Address: PEEC RR#2 BOX 1010

DINGMANS FERRY, PA 18328 Phone: (570) 828-2319

Other Observers: SEVERAL 100 PEOPLE SINCE ITS REPORTED

Who found the bird first: KRISTINE DZURISON (PEEC EMPLOYEE)

Other documentation Included: (Circle all appropriate items)(Make sure all attached items are fully labeled)

Photograph

Audio Recording

Video Recording

If a Specimen, where is it stored? \_\_\_\_\_

Description: (Attach additional pages as needed—Please do not write on back of this form)

K. DZURISON FIRST OBSERVED THE BIRD BEHIND SOME OF THE CABINS AT PEEC CAMPUS. SHE WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE BIRD AND LOOKED IT UP IN SOME FIELD GUIDES. SHE WAS SURE IT WAS A BLACK-BACKED. SHE NOTIFIED ME AT WORK THE NEXT DAY. NEEDLESS TO SAY I WAS SKEPTICAL! THREE DAYS LATER I WAS BIRDING AROUND CAMPUS AND FOUND THE BIRD IN A STAND OF RED PINES ALONG OUR 'TWO PONDS' TRAIL. THE BIRD HAD A SHARPLY DEFINED YELLOW CROWN; THE UPPER PARTS OF THE HEAD AND BACK WERE GLOSSY BLACK WITH BLUISH EDGINGS; ITS BREAST WAS DULL BUFFY WHITE, WITH THE FLANKS HEAVILY BARRED WITH DULL BLACK; OUTER TAIL FEATHERS WHITE WITH SLIGHT BARRING; WINGS SOLID BLACK WITH SMALL WHITE SPOTS ALONG THE EDGES. BACK WAS SOLID BLACK WITH

NO <sup>No</sup> WHITE MARKINGS. MALAZ LINE WHITE ABOVE AND  
BLACK BELOW EXTENDING FROM BASE OF BEAK AND RUNNING  
ALMOST TO THE COLLAR BELOW THE EYE. WHEN IT  
GRASPED THE TRUNK WITH LEGS SPREAD THREE DISTINCT  
TOES WERE OBVIOUS (TWO FORWARD, ONE BACK).

WHILE FEEDING THE WOODPECKER INSERTED ITS BILL  
UNDER THE BARK SCALES AND FLAKED THEM OFF. IT  
WAS VERY APPROACHABLE AND ALLOWED WATCHERS  
WITHIN 10 FEET.

SINCE THE FIRST SIGHTING SEVERAL HUNDRED  
BIRDERS FROM ALL OVER HAVE COME TO SEE THE  
BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER. MANY OF THESE HAVE  
OBTAINED PHOTO DOCUMENTATION.

THE ENCLOSED PHOTOS WERE TAKEN BY PEEC  
STAFF MEMBER BRETT TILLMAN ON 4.7.01 AT 4:30 pm.  
ON PEEC CAMPUS.

PLEASE RETURN THESE PHOTOS IF POSSIBLE TO:

PAT SCHEUER  
C/O PEEC  
RR 2 BOX 1010  
DINGMAN'S FERRY, PA 18328

(AND CONGRATS!)

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO CAME OUT!  
GOOD BIRDING ☺

PAT SCHEUER

521-01-2001

**Black-backed Woodpecker**  
*(Picoides articus)*

**Pocono Environmental Education Center, Pike County**  
**April 21, 2001**

**by Mike Fialkovich**

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On April 21, 2001, I took the trip to see the Black-backed Woodpecker which was reported and observed by many birders. I traveled to the site with Dave Rieger and Claire McDonald. We were directed to the location of the bird by other birders and were fortunate to see it.

**Description:**

- Medium sized woodpecker, about the size of a Hairy.
- Head black with a broad white stripe extending from the base of the bill to the side of the neck (along the bottom of the cheek). Below the white stripe was a black stripe running parallel to the white.
- Bill black and rather long.
- Crown black with a well defined, oval yellow patch.
- Nape, and back black.
- Wings black with white spots in a single row along the folded primaries.
- Tail black with white spotting on the outer retrices.
- Sides of belly and flanks heavily barred black.
- Throat, center of breast and belly, white.
- Legs and feet dark gray. Three toes could be seen at close range as the bird clung to the trees it was feeding in.



**ELIMINATION OF OTHER WOODPECKERS:**

Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers

- Some adult Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers show yellow head patches, however they are on the rear of the head, not on the crown as seen on this bird.
- The sides were heavily barred black. Dark forms of the Hairy Woodpecker lack this barring, as well as the yellow crown patch and white head stripe. This bird was larger than a Downy Woodpecker.
- Three toes were observed on this bird; the other species have four toes.
- Behavior - this bird was feeding with the typical black-backed method of flaking off bark from dead trees and foraging for insect larvae. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers peck into the bark of trees to search for food.

Three-Toed Woodpecker

- All races of the Three-toed Woodpecker show some white markings on the back. This bird's back was completely black.
- This bird lacked the white stripe behind the eye; three toed has a white stripe extending behind the eye.
- This bird had a clear, yellow patch on the crown. Black-backed tends to show whitish markings around the yellow patch on the crown.

This was the first Black-backed Woodpecker I have ever seen.

521-01-2001

**Black-backed Woodpecker**

*Picoides arcticus*

3 May 2001

Mark A. McConaughy

I visited the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) on 3 May 2001 and was able to view the black-backed woodpecker that had been reported there through most of the spring. I was able to photograph the bird with my digital camera through my Leica Televid APO scope on a pine tree at PEEC on that date. Some of the better digital shots are submitted for documentation of the bird. The lens on the digital camera was set at 3X and was held up to the 32 mm objective of the scope producing an effective magnification of 96X. The bird did its best to not give me a good profile shot, and I was only able to get one photograph in profile. The rest are basically from the back.

The woodpecker in question was about the size of a red-bellied woodpecker, but lacked the ladder-backed and the red top of the head markings of a red-bellied woodpecker. It had a yellow cap on the front of its head (doesn't show up in any of the photos submitted). The face was primarily black with a white submoustachial or submalar stripe that goes back to its cheek. There was no noticeable white eye-line stripe as is found in three-toed woodpeckers. It had a white chin and upper breast. The back and folded wings of the bird presented a solid black color. The flanks were heavily barred. It only had three toes (see bbwp05m.jpg and bbwp08m.jpg). The central tail feathers were black and the outer tail feathers were white with no noticeable spotting. It was a male black-backed woodpecker.

## BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER

521-01-2001

April 19, 2001  
Pocono Environmental Education Center  
Dingman's Ferry, Pike Co, PA

Went to see the BBWP that has been present at this location for several weeks. After much searching, the bird was discovered by another birder who alerted us to its whereabouts. We found the bird easily after hearing its faint tapping on a limb. The bird was viewed at leisure for at least 20-30 minutes while it fed. We watched at distances of 25-50 feet from us and at heights of 15-30ft. it was observed with god direct and indirect sunlight. It meticulously picked away at dead bark on several limbs and trunks of pine trees.

Description: a medium sized woodpecker larger than a Hairy Woodpecker but smaller than a Flicker. Its overall appearance was black above and white below.

Upperparts: the head, nape and entire back and upper wings were black. The head and back were a deeper shade of black while the primaries appeared a duller black. The crown had a circular bright yellow spot. The upperpart of the tail was also black. The face was black from the side of the head to just below the eye. There was then a white line extending across the side of the face. Below this was a black line extending from where the bill meets the head to the side of the nape. Below this the face was again white.

Lowerparts: the throat, breast and belly appeared white. There was heavy black barring on the flanks which appeared to extend part way into the side of the belly.. A quick look at undertail appeared white.

Bareparts: the eye was dark. The bill was long about 1- 1 ½ the size of the head, thick at the base, pointed and black. The legs were black and each foot contained only three toes. The toes were easily visible through a scope at 20-30x.

Voice: none heard.

Identification of this bird being a BBWP is based on size, complete dark black back, yellow crown spot, heavy black flank barring and the presence of the three toes.

Elimination of similar species: I think all other eastern woodpeckers except for three-toed can be eliminated by the field marks mentioned above. I don't think that even a melanistic Hairy Woodpecker could possibly have all those field marks together on one bird.

Other dark-backed woodpeckers that can be eliminated include Acorn, which can be eliminated by the lack of a red crown and lack of a the characteristic yellow/white facial pattern of that species. Williamson's Sapsucker can be eliminated by the lack of any bold white wing stripe, lack of a yellow belly and red throat. White-headed Woodpecker can be eliminated by the lack of a white head. Lewis's Woodpecker can be eliminated by the lack of any green tint/sheen to the back and lack of red face and lack of any pink coloration to the underparts.

Nick Pulcinella  
210 Welcome Avenue  
Norwood, PA 19074



## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Ballot - Round One

Species: Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picodes arcticus*)

Date of Sighting: 6 March 2001 to 29 April 2001

Location: POCONO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

County: PIKE

Observer(s): Kristine Dzurison and multiple observers

Date of Submission: 2001

Submitted by: Rick Wiltraut, Nick Pulcinella, Mark McConaughy, Mike Fialkovich

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

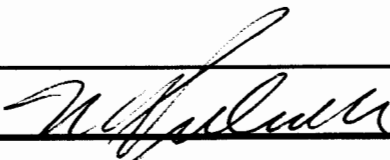
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead	X							
D. Heathcote	X							
P. Hess	X							
J. Stanley	X							
E. Witmer	X							
R. Leberman	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 6/2/03