Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

FACT SHEET

GREEN DROP Tree Care

What It Is:

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Sphyrapicus varius) is a woodpecker known for drilling neat rows of wells in trees to drink the running sap, using its specialized brush-tipped tongue. They will maintain their wells and protect them from other birds.

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers love hardwoods with thin bark like birches, maples, and aspens/poplars, but they also do like to drill into coniferous trees like pines and spruces. They favour these trees due to the high sugar content which provides vital energy.

Concerns:

The sap wells that the Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers drill into the trees attract insects. Although many trees can withstand the damage caused by them, significant damage can result in death, especially the thin-barked trees.

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers can cause a variety of issues, including:

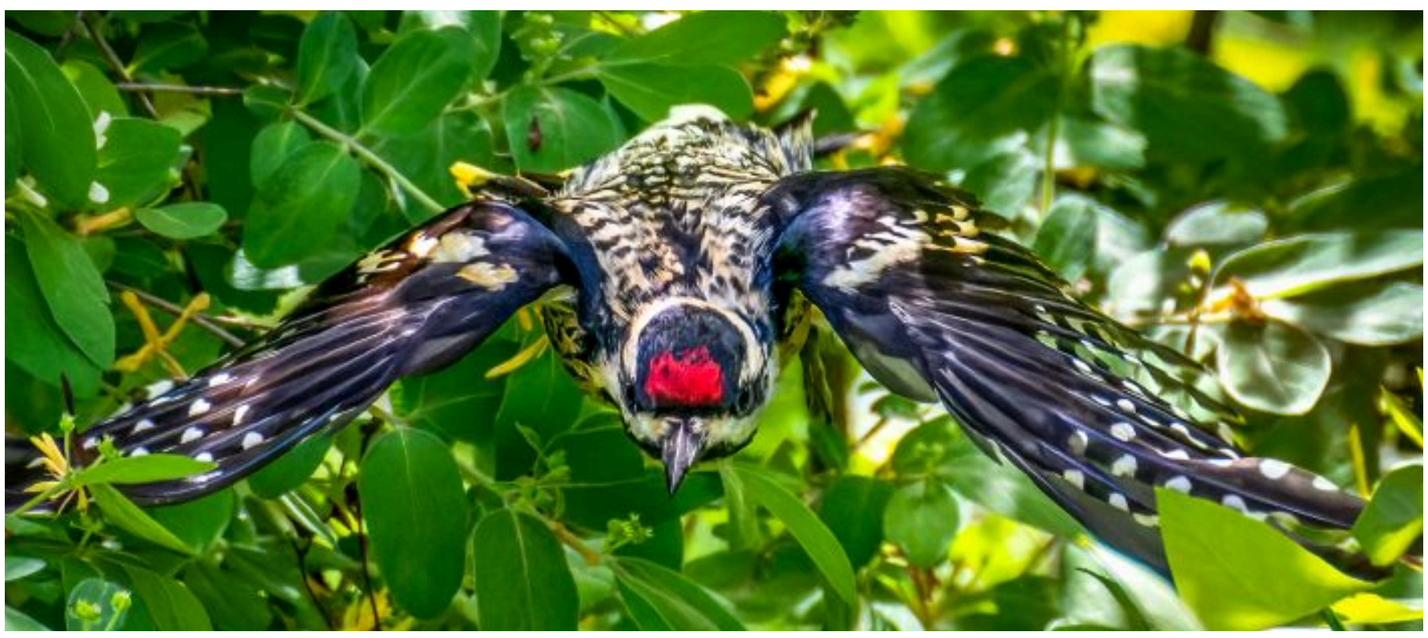
- Girdling
- Disease and insect entry
- Structural Weakness

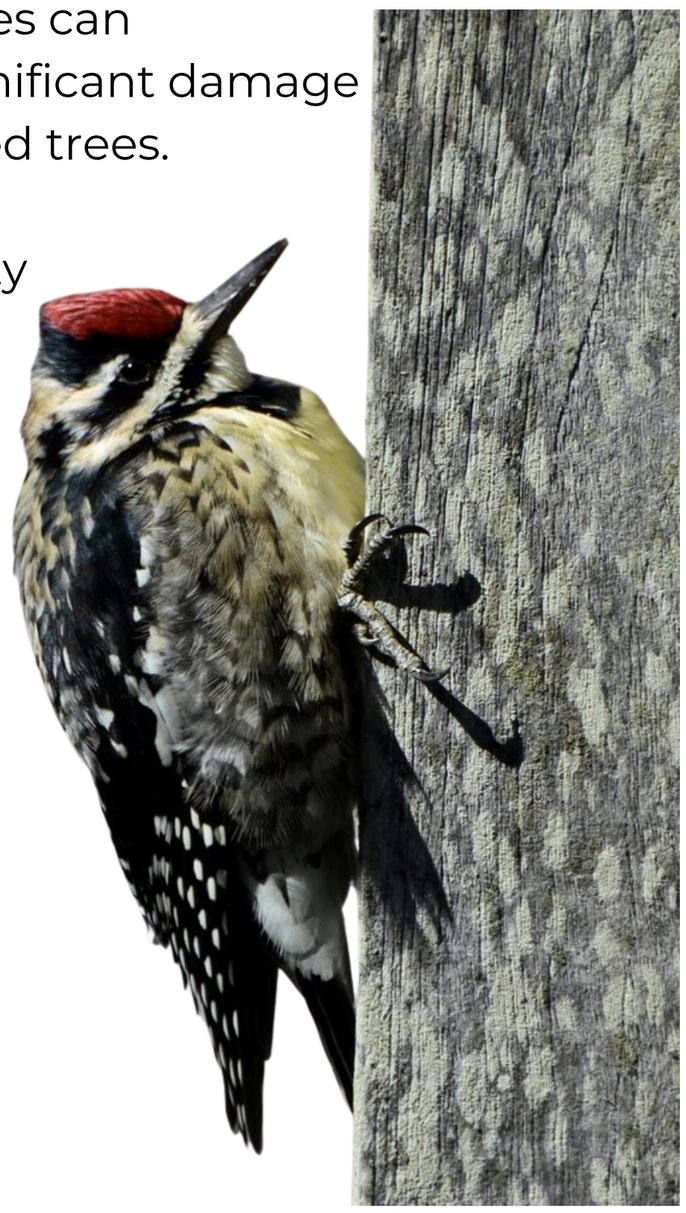
Management:

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Contact:

GREEN DROP Tree Care

Canada's Tree Expert

Green Drop Tree Care
Telephone: 1(833)-928-8733
Email: trees@greendrop.com
URL: https://www.greendroptrees.com/

Winnipeg - Calgary - Red Deer - Edmonton - Regina - Saskatoon

