

Latin Name *Picus viridis*

What do they look like?

There are three woodpeckers which breed in Britain; the Green Woodpecker is the largest and most brightly coloured of the three. It has a heavy-looking body, short tail and a long strong bill. The upper part of its body is bright green whereas the underparts are darker green in colour. Its rump is yellow. The crown of its head is red and in the male the stripe under its eye is red in the female it is black.

How rare are they?

As the Green Woodpecker mainly lives in the South of England and in Wales, they are quite a rarity in the North of England. So it is quite special that we have them nesting in Healey Dell. They are now also on the Amber List. If you click on Amber on the top of the page you will find out what this means.

Where do they live and nest in Healey Dell?

They live in the woodland mainly around the Twin Bridge area. They like deciduous trees (ones which drop their leaves in winter) and nest in holes in mature trees. They do not move far from their nesting sites and are therefore less likely to be seen than the smaller Greater Spotted Woodpecker.

What do they eat?

They feed on the grubs of wood-boring beetles and moths which they remove from the bark of trees with their long sticky tongues. They also love to eat ants which they will take from the ground as well as from the trees.

What do they sound like?

Because of the way they live you are much more likely to hear a Green Woodpecker than you are to see one. They make a loud ringing call which has been compared to laughter

To hear the sound they make follow the link from the red button or copy the link below into a web browser.

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/birds/guide/g/greenwoodpecker/index.asp>



What are their eggs like?

The eggs are about 32 mm by 23 mm. They are smooth, glossy and white.

Sources

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/>

<http://www.garden-birds.co.uk/>

<http://www.bto.org/birdtrends2004/wcrgrewa.htm>



Photograph © Paul Burrows
Vital Statistics

Eggs: April May 5-7
Incubation: 11-14 days
Maximum lifespan: 15 years
Length: 31-33cm
Wingspan: 40-42cm
Weight: 180-220g
UK breeding: 15,000 pairs