

Red-breasted Sapsucker

Sphyrapicus ruber

The Red-breasted Sapsucker is a denizen of the coniferous forests of the northern Pacific Coast, usually found at middle or lower elevations.

Keys to Identification

Adult Description

- Medium-sized woodpecker.
- Red head and breast.
- White stripe running up the side.

Immature Description

Juvenile similar, but head all dark brown.

Cool Facts

- The Red-breasted Sapsucker has two subspecies. The northern form, resident from Alaska to Oregon, is redder on the head and has less white on the back. The southern form, found in California, often shows the black and white face striping of the other sapsucker species, but all the facial feathers are tipped in red.
- Hummingbirds of several species make use of sapsucker feeding holes and come to rely on them. The Rufous Hummingbird is closely associated with the Red-breasted Sapsucker. It nests near sap wells and may follow the woodpecker around during the day, feeding at the wells the sapsucker keeps flowing.

Measurements

Both Sexes

- Length - 7.9 - 8.7 inches
- Wingspan - 14.6 - 15.7 inches
- Weight - 1.4 - 2.4 ounces

