

A close-up photograph of a Red-cockaded Woodpecker perched on a tree trunk. The bird has a black cap, a white forehead, and a black and white checkered pattern on its back and wings. The tree bark is rough and textured, with a prominent vertical crevice. The background is a clear blue sky.

# RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

## Fast Facts

The Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) is about the size of a cardinal. It is one of nine woodpecker species that nest in Texas and is on the federal endangered species list.

## Watch Out for Woodpeckers!

This species has black and white horizontal stripes on its back. Males have a small red patch of feathers on the side of the head named for a “cockade,” a small ribbon that is on a hat.

RCWs like to eat:

- Beetles
- Ants
- Spiders
- Fruits
- Seeds

RCWs live in pine forests where the trees are very old and large. RCWs are the only woodpecker that makes its home by creating cavities in living pine trees. Sap rings around the cavities keep other animals away.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



● Confirmed



Red-cockaded Woodpecker  
*Picoides borealis*

Source: Texas Breeding Bird Atlas,  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

## Find them at these Texas Forests:

- Angelina National Forest
- Sabine National Forest
- Sam Houston National Forest
- Davy Crocket National Forest
- Jones State Forest

TxDOT works to reduce harmful impacts to endangered species in Texas. TxDOT avoids impacts to RCWs by limiting our construction activities within 200 feet of active cavities.