

FIONA NORTHERN FLICKER

Do you have four toes?



Don't you love it when you have a friend who is a little different?

Having a friend whose features are different from mine makes life so exciting!

My Friend Fiona the Northern Flicker is a large, brown woodpecker with a gentle expression and handsome black bars on the back and wings. Her most distinguishing feature is a white rump patch that's conspicuous in flight and often visible when perched.



You would expect to find a woodpecker pecking on a tree. However you are more likely to find her on the ground looking to eat ants and beetles. Her bill is slightly curved which makes finding food on the ground easier.

In the springtime, the male flickers communicate by drumming on dead trees and other objects that resonate with sound. I sometimes hear flickers drumming on metal objects and making quite a ruckus. They do this to establish territory and attract females like Fiona.

Fiona creates her nest by using her specialized feet. Her feet consist of four toes, the first and the fourth facing backward and the second and third facing forward to grasp the tree trunk. Now, that is different! .

Cool Fact: One Northern Flicker in Wyoming could be heard drumming on an abandoned tractor from a half-mile away.

Territory: Clearly defined boundaries during the breeding season.

