

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Another Variant in Three-toed Woodpecker Plumage: As stated in a previous article (*The Kingbird* 33: 165; 1983), the plumages of the Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus bacatus*) found in the Adirondack Mountains of New York are so variable that I believe that I have never seen two alike. On 4 May 1986 Chris Spies and I located a pair of Three-toed Woodpeckers digging a nest hole in "Ferd's Bog," Hamilton Co. The female was an unusually dark bird, with a very restricted amount of white in its plumage. Its head, back, wings and tail were mainly blackish. A gray crown patch flecked with black was present. The center of the back was narrowly barred with dull gray. Dull gray flecking continued up the nape and back of the crown, but was visible only at very close range. Its flanks were barred with light and dark gray. This barring extended completely across the underparts, a plumage that I never have seen before in a Three-toed Woodpecker. The only white on this bird was a broad stripe below the eye, the throat and uppermost breast, and its outer tail feathers, which were slightly flecked with black on the inner edges.

We observed this bird for over 15 minutes. At one point when the male flew to the nest hole to take over the digging, the female flew directly to us and lit on a small dead conifer for several minutes at ranges of 10 to 20 feet. I could not tell if this action by the female was a distraction of sorts or more evidence of their unconcern for humans.

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