

The green woodpecker and what threatens it

At the moment we don't have to worry about the green woodpecker. There are so many of them that this woodpecker is not endangered. So that it stays this way we need to know what the green woodpecker's food is and how it lives.

Then we will be able to act in ways that help this bird.

The green woodpecker eats large quantities of ants. Ants can be found in meadows, in woods, parks and in your own garden. If you look closely you may see some. Some people don't like ants so they use formicide to remove them. Often these people are oblivious to the fact that they are killing the food of the green woodpecker. Maybe you can think twice about using this poison again if the ants really bother you. You would help green woodpeckers this way because then there would be more ants for them to eat.

There is a special kind of meadow where the green woodpecker likes to live best: mixed orchard habitats. Here there are many old trees which are soft enough to build dens in. An apple tree is „old“, when it is about 65 years old. And ants live there, too. But sometimes the trees are felled so that the meadow can be used for other things.

Cutting the grass often is not that good either. It endangers the ants. So you should not do this if you want to protect them.

To protect orchard mixed habitats you can go there and pick the fruits. If you can't find such a meadow near your home you can buy products in the supermarket which are made from fruits grown in mixed orchard habitats. In woods there are also often trees which the green woodpecker can make holes and live in. If you such a tree and see a den in it you can mark it

specifically. So the forester sees: Attention! A green woodpecker lives here.
Please don't fell this one.

There are some phenomena you can't influence. For example, the winter. When the ground is frozen and the snow cover is high, the woodpecker isn't able to reach its food.

But now you know some things that you can do to help the green woodpecker! =)

Tasks: First work on your own and mark the things that threaten green woodpeckers (red) and what you can do to help them (green). Then work with your group and try to fill in the gaps of the domino game. Then play it without looking at the text again. Have fun! =)