

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER

The Latin name for this bird is *Dendrocopos major*.

The great spotted woodpecker ranges over most of Europe and northern Asia except for Ireland and Iceland.

It is a handsome black-and-white bird with a red rump. The male also has a red patch at the back of the head. Its average body length is 22-24cm. This bird has a thick, pointed bill, graduated tail, 'reverse' toes and undulating flight.

Great spotted woodpeckers have an explosive, excited 'chick' call, mainly given in flight, and in spring have a very loud 'drum'-tapping on a tree at a rapid rate.

They lay 4 to 7 eggs in mid-May, which are white and glossy. They live in a hole bored into a tree trunk, usually 10-12ft above ground but often higher.