

7th Grade: Informational Writing

Prompt: Woodpecker

The red-cockaded woodpecker is a bird which is at risk of becoming extinct. It has been placed on the endangered species list to protect it. The bird is about 8.5 inches in length. It has a white patch of white on each cheek. And a black-and-white striped back. The belly and sides are marked with black spots and streaks. The male woodpecker has a tiny red patch behind each eye near the ear.

Red-cockaded woodpeckers depend upon large tracts of mature pine woodlands. Preferred habitats consists on mature live pine trees, more than 60 years old. The trees grow in an open woodland condition with a grassy understory. Nesting and roosting cavities are excavated in live trees. They find older trees with a fungus called redheart disease . They live in family groups up to two or five adults, and young from current years brood.

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Red-cockaded woodpecker is a species that is currently endangered and is on the edge of extinction. Thanks to senior biologist Dr. John Skeen the McCurtain County Wildlife Management Area provides homes for the birds so they do not become extinct. The reason these birds are about to become extinct is their nesting habits. These birds have certain nesting habits that cause them to be more vulnerable.

The first nesting habit that causes the Red-cockaded woodpecker to die is the fact that any time some other animal or insect gets into the woodpecker's home the woodpecker then decides to abandon their home making them more vulnerable during the phase when they are building a new house. In the article "Protection the Nest" Ben Davis says the following "Red-cockaded woodpeckers are quite particular. One a squirrel, wasp, or other animal gets into their hole, they will abandon it. It takes a red-cockaded woodpecker eight months to a year to build a new cavity. Without a hole to nest in, they are at greater risk the entire time they are building new homes." This is significant because this quote shows that it takes a while for the woodpeckers to make a new home and while they are building they are in the open and can be attacked more easily. Therefore one reason that the red-cockaded woodpeckers are going extinct is because they abandon their homes too much.

Another reason that the red-cockaded woodpeckers are going extinct because of human impact. A quote from Clay Barnes who monitors the red-cockaded woodpeckers at the McCurtain County Wildlife Management Area says "These birds are endangered because of human impact, so it is our responsibility to get involved and restore their habitat." This is important because based on this quote we must conclude that because of things humans are doing it is causing these woodpeckers to become endangered. Nesting habits are not the only reason that the red-cockaded woodpeckers are going extinct.

The last reason that the red-cockaded woodpeckers are becoming extinct is that the birds require trees that are mature, living pine trees that are at least 60 years old when it comes to nesting. A quote from the description of the red-cockaded woodpecker called "red-cockaded woodpecker" by Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation quotes the following while talking about reasons for decline "Forestry operations and other activities that result in widespread cutting of old growth timber have limited the availability of suitable habitat for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. This is because it requires mature, living pine trees that are at least 60 years old for nesting." The fact that most old trees are being cut down is helping the Red-cockaded Woodpeckers to become extinct because they have certain requirements when it comes down to nesting.

Based on the evidence provided above, the main cause of the Red-cockaded Woodpeckers becoming endangered is because of their nesting habits. The birds leave their homes if any other insect or animal goes inside of it combined with the certain requirements the birds have when it comes to nesting means that the Red-cockaded Woodpeckers would be spending most of their life searching for a home while avoiding dangers that can kill them.

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Have you ever wondered how many living species of birds there are? Have you ever wondered how many of those species are close to becoming extinct? One of those species is the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. The Red-cockaded Woodpecker's home is in the North American state park, Beaver's Bend, in Oklahoma. Here are two reasons why we should try our best to save these little guys.

First, in the article *Protecting the Nest* it states that 'It takes a red-cockaded woodpecker eight months to a year to build a new cavity. Without a hole to live in, they are at greater risk the entire time they are building new homes.' This statement is significant because it states that when the Red-cockaded Woodpecker is trying to make a new cavity, a three inch hole that is about thirty to forty feet in the air, it is vulnerable because it is not protected by the hole, therefore causing other animals like mountain lions and/or snakes to be able to reach them. These birds need to have these holes so that they can be protected while they sleep and so that their young can also be protected.

Second, in the same article it states "'These birds are endangered because of human impact, so it is our responsibility to get involved and restore their habitat," said Barnes'. Clay Barnes is a wildlife technician, who monitors the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. As Barnes stated, "...endangered because of human impact," that means that as humans we are the lead cause of the endangerment to the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Since us as humans need the old-growth timber, we cut down the only trees that the Red-cockaded Woodpecker likes. Now thanks to us, there are only a handful of areas, in the United States, that are suitable for the bird.

As you can see from the evidence presented, the Red-cockaded Woodpecker is endangered and we are one reason and one of the other reasons is because in the making of a new hole, they are vulnerable. These birds are important to us, and one day they might become extinct. Now you are a member of one of the many animals on the endangered species list.

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Imagine if you got paid to climb tall beautiful trees in southeastern, Oklahoma. I can't help but think, how terrifying, yet an amazing view it would be.

The red cockaded woodpecker is an endangered species that has reached the edge of extinction. Red cockaded woodpeckers are quite particular. Once a wasp, or squirrel, or any other animal gets into their nest, they will abandon it. It takes red cockaded woodpeckers eight months or even to a year to build a new cavity. Without a hole to nest in, they are at greater risk the entire time they are building new homes.

The red cockaded is the only bird in North America that mines cavities in living old-grove pine trees. It prefers park like areas that are burned frequently to keep the undergrowth minimal. The woodpeckers aren't the only species benefiting from the habitat work. What is good for the woodpecker has also been good for deer, turkey, and quail.

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The Red-cockaded woodpecker, *Picoides borealis*, is a red, white, and black woodpecker that is federally listed as endangered. These birds live southeastern Oklahoma and depend upon pine woodlands. The pine trees that these woodpeckers like best are older ones that are infected with a disease called redheart disease. The Red-cockaded Woodpecker's habitat contains mature pine trees that are alive and are more than sixty years old. Right now, there are about 15 families of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers living in the McCurtain County Wilderness Area in Oklahoma .

What is making the Red-cockaded woodpecker endangered? Is it the people that live near them? Is it their habitat? Based on research, the Red-cockaded Woodpecker is endangered because of its nesting habits. These woodpecker's nests are little three-inch holes with resin trails around them in pine trees. In "Protecting the Nest", a passage by Ben Davis, it says, " Red-cockaded woodpeckers are quite particular. Once a squirrel, wasp, or other animal gets into their hole, they will abandon it ." Since it takes these woodpeckers 8 months or more to build a new hole, they don't have a home for a very long time, which puts them at risk. Because of the Red- cockaded woodpecker's nesting habits, these birds are becoming more and more endangered.

Luckily, we have people trying to save these birds. Clay Barnes, a wildlife technician, monitors this species and makes sure they have homes. He believes that besides their nesting habits, the Red-cockaded woodpeckers are endangered because of humans, so it is our job to help them.

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Why do you think the red-cockade woodpecker's is endangered it has very picky interest and it can only live off of what it wants and need like they will not make a new cavity unless the tree is more than 60 years old. The red-cockade woodpecker nesting habit have caused this bird to become endangered.

It takes up to a month to even a year to build a new cavity. According to the article "Protecting the nest" paragraph 5. Why do they take that long is it because they usually want trees that are up to 60 years old no younger. Red-cockaded woodpeckers are quit particular once an animal like a squirrel, wasp, or other animal they just abandon their home.

Currently they exist in is isolated populations in only eight other states. If they wouldn't be so picky maybe they live in more states or do, they have to live in a curtain climate. Should we argue that they should live in more than just eight states because th ere might be that must room.