

Table 1. Mean (+ SE) response of Red-headed Woodpeckers to model male Red-headed Woodpeckers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers during 10 minute trials.

<b>2007 Breeding Season</b>				
Response	Red-headed Woodpecker	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	P-Value
<b>Alarm calls</b>				
2007	0	0.09 + 0.06	0	0.84
2008	0.8 + 0.4	2.2+0.96	0	0.14
<b>Fly-by investigation</b>				
2007	0.05 +0.05	0.2 +0 .14	0.09 +0.06	0.96
2008		0.1+0.1	0.1+0.1	0.90
<b>Food attentiveness</b>				
2007	0	0	0.05 + 0.05	0.96
2008	0	0	0	N/A
<b>Individual attack</b>				
2007	0.27 +0 .23	0.18 + 0.11	0	0.73
2008	0	0	0	N/A
<b>&gt;2 Individuals attack</b>				
2007	0	0	0	N/A
2008	0	0	0	N/A

cific competitors (Reller 1972, Williams 1975, Jackson 1976), but these studies did not measure differences in aggressive behavior towards interspecific and intraspecific competitors. We found no significant differences in the aggressive response of the Red-headed Woodpeckers to the three different model types. These results differ from the commonly held notion that Red-headed Woodpeckers are more aggressive toward conspecifics and Red-bellied Woodpeckers than other species of birds. The question is why were Red-headed Woodpeckers equally aggressive toward all three models? Red-headed Woodpeckers may not have perceived the model birds as a threat, or they may be equally aggressive to all birds that enter their territories regardless of the competitive level between the species. Alternatively, it may be a consequence of the cooperative breeding and territory overlap witnessed in this population, leading them to be more tolerant of conspecifics. This does not, however, explain the lack of aggression toward Red-bellied Woodpeckers. Our study site may be of such high quality, thus explain-

ing the high density of Red-headed Woodpeckers, that there is less competition for resources (e.g., Davies and Houston 1981). A decrease in competition may have led to a decrease in aggression toward both inter- and intraspecific competitors (Davies and Houston 1981), which may not only explain the lack of aggression toward Red-bellied and Red-headed Woodpeckers but also their tolerance of helpers at the nest.

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