

Magellanic Woodpecker *Campephilus magellanicus*



Magellanic Woodpecker *Campephilus magellanicus* is the largest South American woodpecker, at 36–45 cm¹⁻⁴. Its distribution comprises southern Chile, from Curico to Isla Grande, and adjacent areas of south-west Argentina¹, where it is typical of austral humid forests with *Nothofagus* and *Cupressus*, frequently with bamboo stands¹⁻⁴. Plumage is predominantly black with white on the wings, rump and flanks. Males have the entire head red, while females have deep red only at the base of the bill^{1,2,4}. Young have plumage similar to females but are browner, less bright, with a short crest and, frequently, white bars below¹.

The species occurs in pairs or family groups, and is noisy when feeding, often flying from tree to tree¹. It nests within tree holes, laying 2–3 white eggs in October–December^{1,4}. This male was photographed with a female on the trail between El Chalten and Glaciar Cerro Torre (49°19'S 72°55'W), Los Glaciares National Park, Argentina.

Though not threatened, *C. magellanicus* has a restricted geographic range in southern South America, comprising two Endemic Bird Areas (EBAs 061 and 062)⁵. As it depends on trees both to forage and nest¹, deforestation of the temperate forests of Chile and Argentina⁵ may represent a threat to the Magellanic Woodpecker.



Male Magellanic Woodpecker *Campephilus magellanicus*
(Frederico Ferreira de Vasconcelos)

References

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Marcelo Ferreira de Vasconcelos

Cole o Ornitol gica, Departamento de Zoologia, ICB, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, C.P. 486, 31270-901, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil. E-mail: bacurau@mono.icb.ufmg.br. Current address: Departamento de Biologia Geral, Universidade Estadual de Montes Claros, Av. Rui Braga, s/n  39401-089, Montes Claros, MG, Brazil.

Frederico Ferreira de Vasconcelos

Rua Para ba 740, apto. 501, 30130-140, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil.