

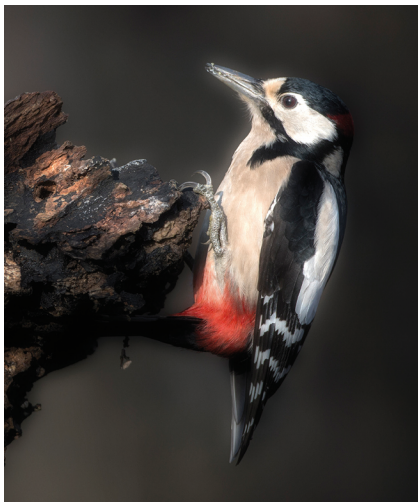
# WOODPECKERS OF THE CANSIGLIO FOREST

## Builders of biodiversity

The woodpeckers present at Cansiglio Forest are the great spotted woodpecker, the black woodpecker and the European green woodpecker. They inhabit mixed pine and beech forests. Because of their **ecological importance**, these species must be protected and monitored.

At Cansiglio these species are **biodiversity indicators** since their presence is indirect evidence of the coexistence of many other plant and animal organisms enriching the ecosystem.

**GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER**  
(*Dendrocopos major*)



White and black woodpecker with a red spot on the head or under the tail  
(Photo: F. Terrazzani)

**GREY-HEADED WOODPECKER**  
(*Picus canus*)



Grey-headed woodpecker  
(Photo: L. Signori)

**BLACK WOODPECKER**  
(*Dryocopus martius* L.)



BLACK woodpecker (Photo: A. Ferro)



Woodpecker cavities (Photo: M. Cassol)

Woodpeckers feed on the insects, larvae and small eggs they find inside tree trunks as they dig with their strong and long beaks, leaving the trees with cavities of various sizes.

**How can the forest be managed to enhance woodpecker abundance?**

Under a **sustainable forest management** policy, such as the one adopted at Cansiglio Forest, dry, old, perishing and dead standing plants are spared from cutting.

Plants bearing woodpecker-made nest cavities serve as shelter and food larders to other **species in the forest ecosystem**, including numerous birds (boreal owls and Eurasian pygmy owls), bats, mammals (squirrels and dormouse) and many insect species (bees, wasps, bumblebees and ants).