

Gila Woodpecker



Birds are hatched naked with no down; bill is flesh colored and sturdy looking



Yellow feathers can be seen on belly of nestling



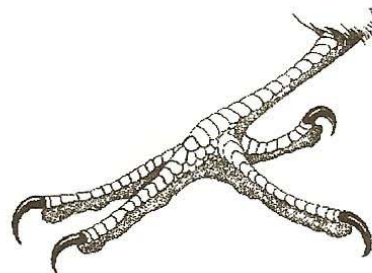
Nestlings have a ridge on the head



Fledglings have black and white dappled feathers on back and wings

Woodpeckers are cavity nesters; they nest in tree holes and, here in the Southwest, they make homes in cacti. They're also identified by a specific foot design where two toes face forward and the other two toes face backward. The other two birds that have this foot design are the roadrunner and the cuckoo.

Woodpeckers are a two parent household where both male and female share incubation and child rearing duties.



The woodpecker's tongue is unique in that it has microscopic barbs on the tip and they touch/taste with their tongues. These tips, though, can get caught in fiber such as terry cloth so only use tightly woven fibers such as a linen dish towel for containment lining. Make sure there are no raveled edges. **If the tongue does get caught, don't try to pull it off!** You could rip off the barbs and do permanent damage to the bird.

Call Wildwing at 480-893-6660 or Liberty Wildlife at 480-998-5550.