



***Birds in Homeopathy***

**Volume-2**

**Ghanshyam Kalathia**

**Birds**  
**in**  
**Homeopathy**

**Volume-2**

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# 12 Piciformes

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Of the nine families of largely arboreal birds that make up the order Piciformes, the best known is Picidae, which includes woodpeckers and close relatives.

In general, Piciformes are insectivorous, although barbets and toucans mostly eat fruits.

Nearly all Piciformes have parrot-like zygodactyl feet—two toes forward and two back, an arrangement that has obvious advantages for birds that spend much of their time on tree trunks.

All nest in cavities and have altricial young, undeveloped at hatching, but maturing with the aid of parents.

Most species live in forests or woodland habitats.

Members of this family are chiefly known for their characteristic behavior, foraging for insect prey on the trunks and branches of trees, and often communicating by drumming with their beaks, to produce a reverberating sound that can be heard at some distance.

They mostly nest and roost in holes that they excavate in tree trunks, and their abandoned holes are of importance to other cavity-nesting birds.

The plumage of woodpeckers varies from drab to conspicuous. The colors of many species are based on olive and brown tones, though some are pied, suggesting a need for camouflage. Others are boldly patterned in black, white and red, and many have a crest or tufted feathers on the crown.

Members of this family can walk vertically up a tree trunk, which is beneficial for foraging for food, or nest excavation. In addition to the strong claws and feet, woodpeckers have short, strong legs; strong bills for drilling and drumming on trees; and long sticky tongues for extracting food.

The majority of woodpeckers are sedentary and do not migrate, living fairly solitary lives, though some live in groups. They will defend feeding resources such as a termite colony or fruit laden tree, driving away other conspecifics and returning frequently until the resource is exhausted.

Aggressive behaviors include bill-pointing and jabbing, head shaking, wing flicking, chasing, drumming and vocalizations.

Drumming is a form of non-vocal communication used by most species of woodpecker and involves the bill being repeatedly struck on a hard surface with great rapidity.

Cavities are in great demand for nesting by other cavity nesters, so woodpeckers face competition for the nesting sites they excavate, from the moment the hole becomes usable. Rivals may other species of woodpeckers, or other cavity nesting birds such as swallows and starlings.

Woodpeckers may aggressively harass potential challengers, and also use other strategies to reduce the chance of being usurped from their nesting sites.

Woodpeckers are monogamous and pair for life, working together to help build the nest, incubate the eggs and raise their young. However, in most species the male does most of the nest excavation and takes the night shift while incubating the eggs. A clutch will usually consist of two to five round white eggs, which are incubated for about 11-14 days before hatching. After about 18-30 days, the chicks are fully fledged and ready to leave the nest.

### **Piciformes remedies (Bold = Proved Remedies)**

(1) Woodpeckers

→ *Dendrocopos major* (*Dendroc-m*) Great Spotted Woodpecker

→ ***Picus viridis* (*Picus-v*) Green Woodpecker**

→ ***Melanerper Formicivorus* (*Melan-f*) Acorn Woodpecker**

(2) Toucanes

→ *Ramphastos toco* (*Ramph-t*) Toco Toucan

(3) Barbets

→ *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus* (*Trachyp-e*) Red-and-yellow Barbet

## **PICIFORMES GENERAL THEMES**

### **Home – Secure Place**

Woodpeckers and their relatives spend most of their time digging or boring holes to make burrows in the trunks of live or dead trees. Therefore, home is very important for these personalities, expressed in cases in various ways. People have strong attachments to home so either try to build, re-build or beautify the home. Generally, the main concern is to have a safe and secure place, so they prefer durable and strong, rather than a decorative or stylish homes.



The desire for home is an expression of a strong need for a comfortable place, where one can enjoy sustained comfort without much up and down in life. They want contentment within a steady life, and home is where one has security, safety, food resources, money and all the comforts of life.

These guys are extremely concerned about safety, so may experience insecurities or anxieties related to the home. As security is associated with having sufficient resources for a comfortable life, these guys tend to be well-equipped, and well-stocked with provisions. In many cases we found the person concerned about planning in advance, needing to be ready and prepared for the future, and planning for financial security to ensure they have whatever is necessary for the future.

Concepts of home and comfort are equally important to these people, who prefer to remain in the close vicinity of a comfort zone or a familiar place. When away for few days, then one misses the familiarity of one's own place, so these remedies have intense homesickness.

Home is also extremely important to passerines too, but for passerines, home is the place where you receive care and nurture, while for picids it is where one finds comfort, safety and security.

## **Strong and Sturdy**

To bore a hole in dead or live trunk of a tree is not an easy job, but requires patience and endurance, so these personalities are strong and sturdy. We can observe the stamina of these types in their highly workaholic attitudes, which ensure access to comfort and provisions for themselves and their family members.

The strength is also witnessed in cases as individuals who are able to defend a personal point of view, and individuality, therefore these types are tough and robust, and do not give in easily to any difficulties. Like other strong bird individuals, they want to have strong bodies, but also have emotional and mental resilience due to being strong willed. Rather than having concern for beauty or style in things, these people prefer strength and durability, both of which are a must, exhibited in the desire for strong and protective houses.

## Social – but Conscious of one’s Space

Picid individuals are social and want a good family life to ensure they are comfortable, believing that the group and society is an important source of strength and security. Although sociable, they are reserved, so it takes time to develop relationships. Despite this, they acquire strong attachments to people and places they are familiar with, which become part of their comfort zones.

For picids, the close family or group is much more important than outside society, so they share emotions with a close circle of contacts, whom they help when necessary. They prefer to work together within the family unit, and realize the benefits of team work.

However, as having time for self is equally as important as social contact, and it’s also essential for them to have time alone, these people are not completely devoted to their groups.

## Aggressive or Reactive

Being so highly concerned for safety and security around their homes and comfort zones, picids are highly reactive, and will defend their locations with force and aggression if there is any threat to their homes, or the places where they seek comfort.

Although they will patiently and persistently bore and dig holes, if there is disturbance in this activity then the individual becomes very angry. Picid individuals will not tolerate somebody or something nagging, annoying or interfering in their work or routine, so the reaction in the form of ‘irritability’ is very pronounced in this group of remedies.

## PICIFORMES REMEDIES

### Picus viridis – Green Woodpecker

#### General Information

The medicine is prepared from the Green Woodpecker. We understand the medicine from the natural behavior and survival patterns of the bird and from a beautiful proving by Olga Fatoula (2010).