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From: **Paul Peterson**

Date: Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 6:55 PM

Subject: Re: Black-backed Woodpecker Description for M.A.R.C.

To: Matt Garvey <mattpgarvey@gmail.com>

I had forgot to mention that I was within approximately thirty feet of the Black-backed Woodpecker, and that it was a cloudy day, so I had no glare. I had excellent looks. Also, The yellow crown on this woodpecker was clearly defined around the edges, not fuzzy like the edges of the yellow crown patch of the Three-toed Woodpecker. David Bernstein took photos on the following day (January 7) of the evidence of the bird's foraging on various dead evergreen trees in the evergreen grove. He put a link up on massbird.

On Thursday, January 8, 2015 9:46 AM, Matt Garvey <mattpgarvey@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks so much, Paul! Hopefully it's still in the area!

Best,

matt

On Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 5:21 PM, Paul Peterson <petersonpaul63@yahoo.com> wrote:

I was birding January 6th, 2015 at Forest Hills Cemetery in Jamaica Plain in Boston. I had already covered a large area when I heard what I had thought might be a Hermit Thrush calling chup chup from the area of a row of evergreen shrubs. No sign of the Hermit Thrush in the area rather close to the gatehouse that is on the main entrance drive. There are many evergreens of various species above these shrubs on the slope, and almost immediately I saw a woodpecker that had a very dark head with very prominent yellow cap on top. I was immediately very excited, for even though I didn't know what species this bird was, I knew I had something awesome and something I had never seen before. from downslope, I could only see the head and underside. I then went to the road upslope that is called Magnolia Ave in order to get a better look at this woodpecker and to see it from the other side (its backside). I was amazed at how black its back was. Solid black was the back. Its flanks were highly barred with black barring. The bird was flinging off large pieces of bark from the trunk of a dead evergreen. Judging by several other dead everegreens that looked like they had been debarked by this bird, I assumed the bird had been here for perhaps two days or more, but I surely wouldn't know this, because this was a new bird for me. The bird stayed in the same area of the same tree for a good while, at least ten minutes, and who knows how long before I'd arrived? a Red-bellied Woodpecker flew in after fifteen minutes, and caused the Black-backed Woodpecker to fly to a nearby tree. It was tapping on a few trees for the twenty minute duration that I had watched it. It clearly had a white belly, a white throat which seemed even more white by the sharp contrast with the black head color. Its head was dark, not having the white line behind the eye like the Three-toed Woodpecker has. (I learned this part from my guide books after the fact, the Three-toed being yet another woodpecker with which I am unfamiliar) I took a mental note of the fact that the woodpecker was about the size of a Hairy Woodpecker, with similar bill length as well. I believe the call I had thought had come from a Hermit Thrush was actually the Black-backed Woodpecker's call. One of my guide books mentions that one of the calls of this species is a tup call. (my National Geographic guide?)