



The Northern Flicker was once considered three separate species (The Yellow-Shafted Flicker, Red-Shafted Flicker and Gilded Flicker), but since they breed together where their ranges overlap, ornithologists have lumped them together as one species. The Northern Flicker is one of the most common woodpeckers in North America. The Eastern version (known as the Yellow-Shafted Flicker) is shown above. The Yellow-Shafted is common throughout the east and mid west and is the official state bird of Alabama. In the west, the Northern Flicker has red wing shafts, a gray face, a brown cap, and a red moustache. The Gilded Flicker of the desert southwest is still considered the same species, but has wings like the Yellow shafted Flicker and a face like the Red-Shafted Flicker. Flickers, unlike other woodpeckers, frequently forage on the ground for ants.