



The Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker is related to the woodpeckers. The regular rows of small holes you may see in birch, beech, elm, and maple trees are the work of Sapsuckers. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker feeds on the inner bark and sap of trees. With its strong, sharp bill it punctures holes in the bark. It later returns to feed on the sap that oozes out and to catch the insects that have been attracted to the sap.

The Yellow-bellied is also a drummer. It hammers with its bill on hollow trees, metal roofs, and wires. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker has several relatives in the midwest, in the Rockies, and on the Pacific coast. Their habits are similar.

Sapsuckers nest near water. The nest is a hole drilled in a dead poplar or birch. The hole is lined with wood chips. The eggs, five to seven, are glossy white.