

“ WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING
BIRDS LIKES TO INHABIT
THE DESERTED BREEDING
BURROWS OF
WOODPECKERS?
”

- A: Sparrowhawk
- B: Wren
- C: Penduline tit
- D: Brown owl



Please use
the grey stamp!



“ There are eight different
types of **WOODPECKER** in the
Hollabrunn Forest. ”

Please use
the white stamp!



The correct answer
is the
BROWN OWL!



“ Brown owls like making use of the existing, abandoned nests of other birds and vacant hollow tree trunks to pitch camp. However, other animals too move in to abandoned woodpecker burrows as new tenants. Thus, you can find squirrels and dormice, as well as bats and pine martens in such unoccupied nests, among other types of animal. ”

A LITTLE STORY ABOUT A WOODPECKER

In 2016, a young woodpecker was found in the Hollabrunn Forest. It sat on the trunk of an oak tree with its wings outstretched. The wing of the small woodpecker was probably broken as the result of an attack from a sparrowhawk, and so it sat there incapable of flying, pressed against the tree trunk. The young bird was caught and taken to the Animal Hospital of the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna. Upon admission they gave him the name “Seppel”. The broken wing was treated and the young woodpecker was taken to the Haringsee Lake Bird of Prey Sanctuary to recover. After its injury had healed, its finder had planned to reintroduce it into the wild.



But things turned out very differently. Due to the severity of its injury, it was no longer wise to release it into the wild. Seppel’s wing had sustained permanent damage, and this massively restricted its ability to fly. Seppel would have been helpless to attackers in the forest. Exactly at this time, the Innsbruck Alpenzoo (alpine zoo) were looking for black woodpeckers for breeding experiments. So Seppel was put in a transport box, and the long journey to the Tyrol began. To pass the time in the car, he was given a piece of wood “to play with”.

When they arrived at the Alpenzoo, the question of Seppel’s sex came up for the first time. It was quickly clarified that the young woodpecker was in fact a female. So, without further ado, the girl woodpecker was given the name Josephine in keeping with its nickname.

Since then, Josephine has lived with conspecifics in an aviary of the Innsbruck Alpenzoo. We are keeping our fingers crossed that the breeding experiment will work one day, and Josephine will become a mother to little woodpecker chicks.

“ THE CARPENTERS OF THE FOREST ”



WHO IS THAT KNOCKING?

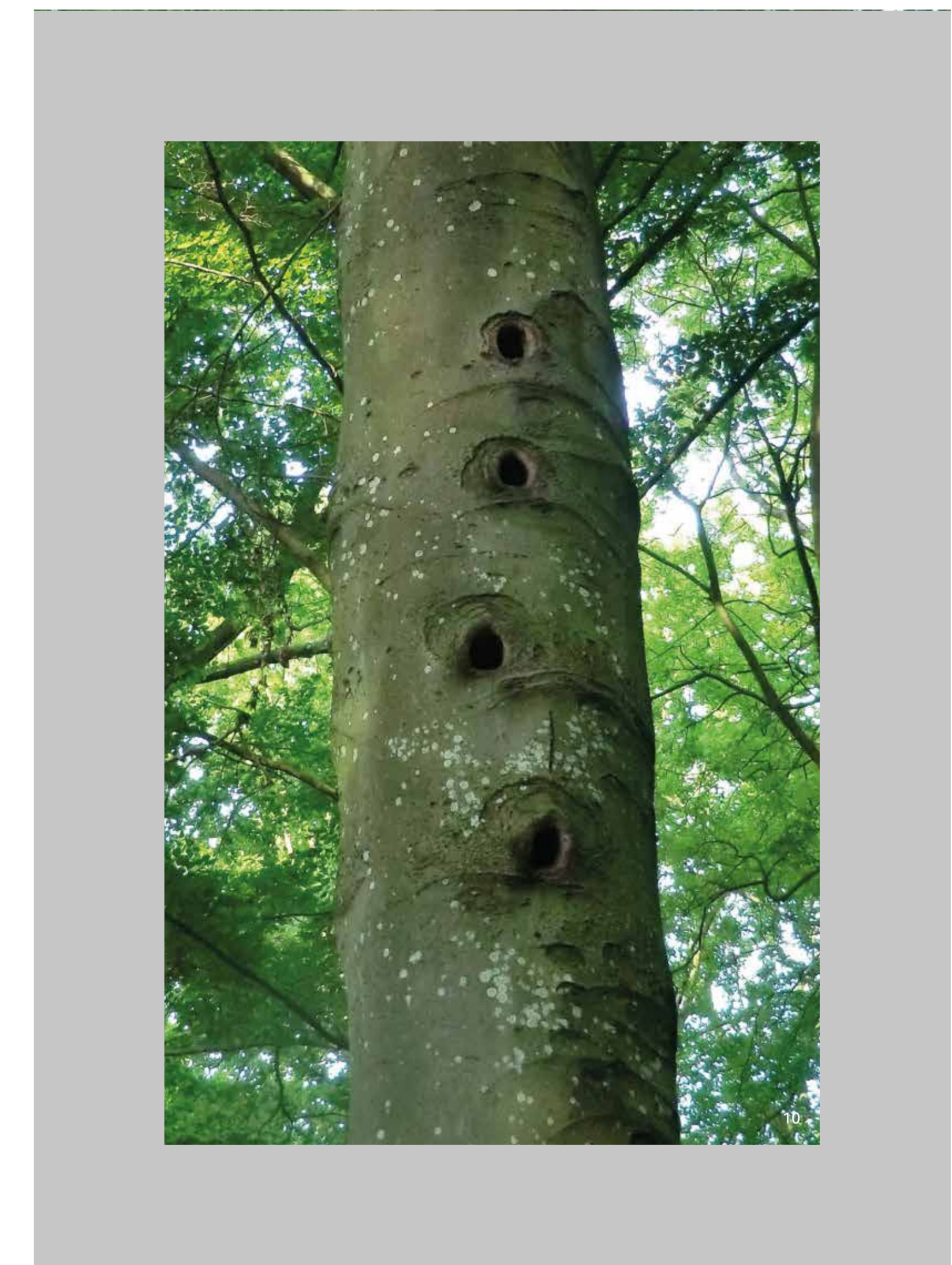
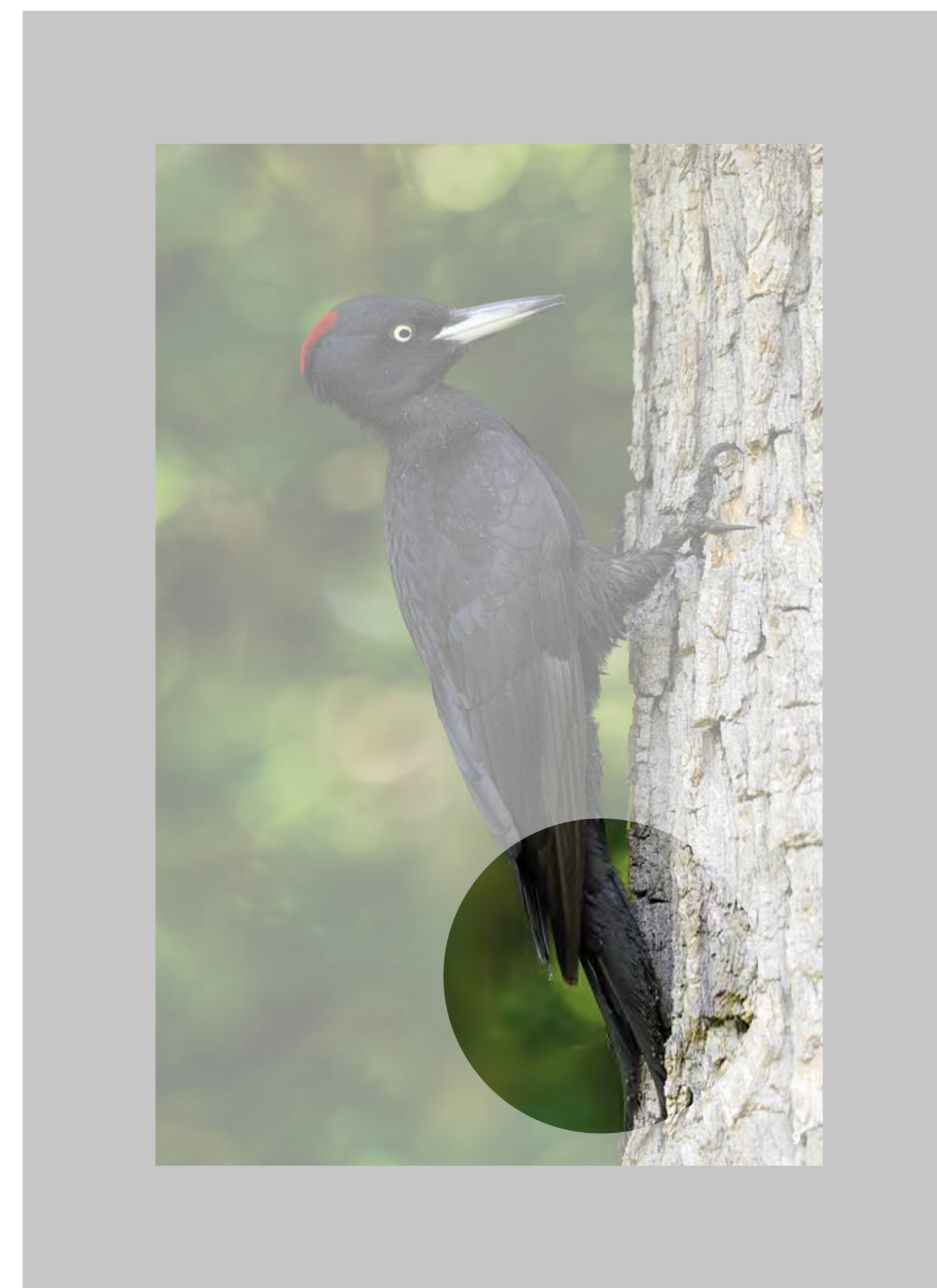
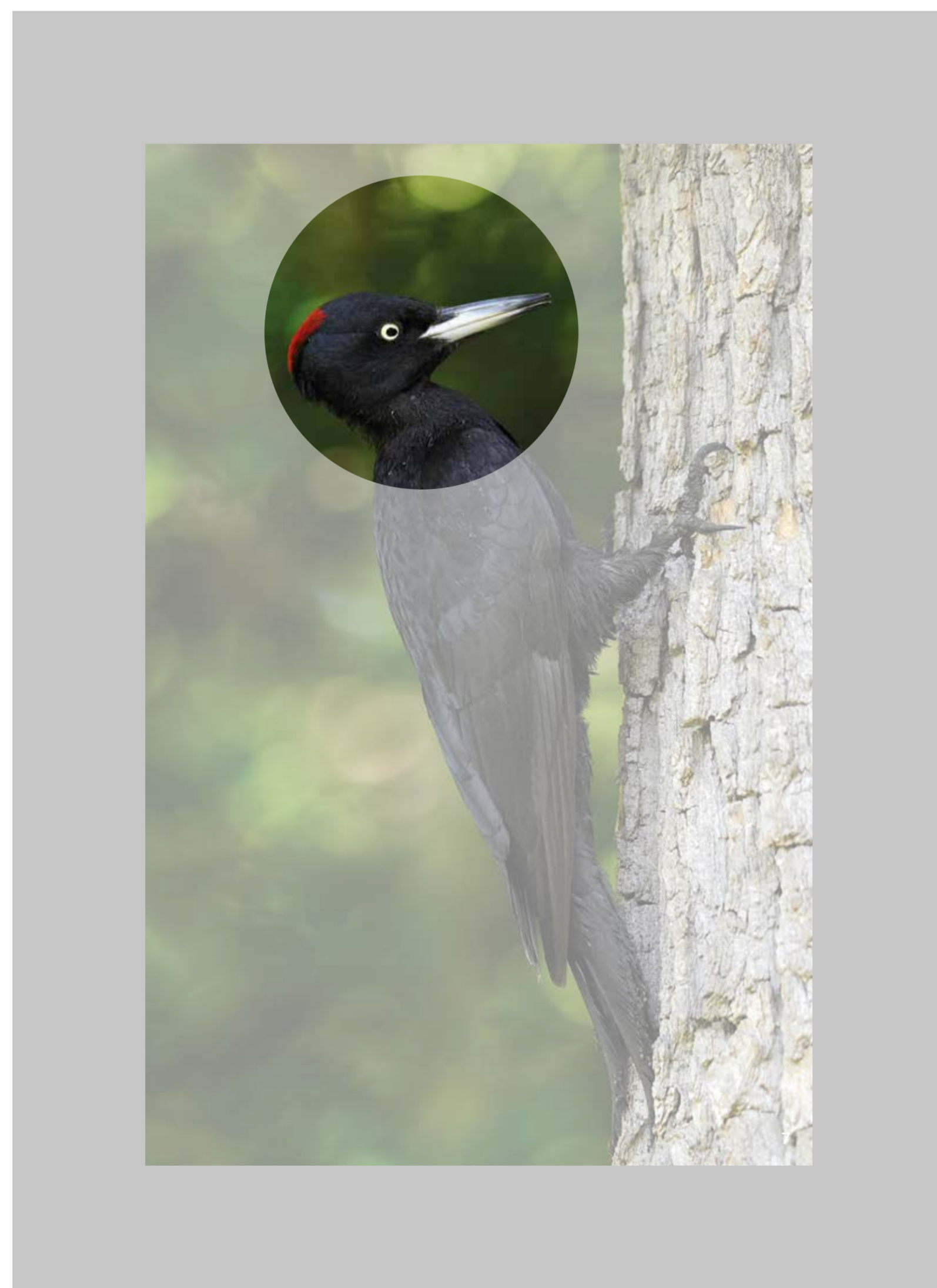
There is hardly a sound in the forest that is more readily recognisable than the rapid drumming of a woodpecker against a tree trunk. It is the incomparable speed with which its beak hits the wood and in a time interval that makes it impossible to count the hits. When it drums against the tree, the extremely long tongue of the woodpecker lies around the brain, thereby offering additional impact protection. Woodpecker tapping is one of the noises of the forest which you can hear on every forest visit from spring to summer.

In the Hollabrunn Forest, there are eight different types of woodpecker drumming against the tree trunks. You rarely see them flying through the forest, or make them out when they are high up in the trees, but if there is a favourable wind, you can hear their drumming for miles around. In addition to well-known types of woodpecker such as the Great Spotted Woodpecker, the Syrian Woodpecker, Middle Spotted Woodpecker, the Grey-Headed Woodpecker and the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker also live in the Hollabrunn Forest.



We woodpeckers are almost perfectly adapted to our lifestyle. Our heads manage to withstand the hard hits against the trees. Our feet are structured in such a way that we can climb up tree trunks effortlessly and our tail feathers help us with our daily tasks.

See for yourself! The boards will give you more information. And don't forget to take a look inside the woodpecker tree!



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Why a woodpecker does not get any headaches when it hammers against a tree trunk with its beak, is to do with the structure of its **HEAD**. The porous interior of the cranial bone works like a shock absorber. The powerful, springy beak muscles reinforce this effect still further. In addition, the brain is fitted exactly in the cranial cavity and therefore, if there is any concussion, it is not thrown about within the skull.

A woodpecker has short, powerful legs that are designed to allow it to climb up tree trunks. There are four toes on each foot. Two toes point to the front and two to the back, whereby the fourth toe can be additionally abducted to the side. There are strong sharp **CLAWS** on all four toes. These let the foot function like a gripper and enable the woodpecker to climb up vertical surfaces.

The woodpecker's **TAIL** is an important tool for climbing and knocking on trees. The woodpecker uses it as a support during its drumming action. The strong tail feathers lie like slates on top of each other, gaining additional resistance as a result. During moulting phases, all tail feathers never fall out at the same time. The two strongest feathers in the middle hold out until the others round about it have grown again and can bear the weight of the woodpecker.

Woodpeckers are the carpenters of the forest. They build their breeding burrows in old trees. Every woodpecker possesses several hollow trunks in the forest where the rearing of the young is always restricted to one trunk. Many animals in the forest become the beneficiaries of abandoned woodpecker burrows. From squirrels to nuthatches to martens and different types of bat, many other animals are also glad if they can move into a **WOODPECKER'S TREE**.