

Acorn Woodpeckers Are Beauties

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Some houses, such as this one in Orinda, sport bird nets to keep the woodpeckers away from the siding.
Photos Chris Lavin

“Plus they cause hundreds of dollars in damage,” said one Orinda homeowner.

Here are some common deterrents to woodpecker visitations, besides nets:

- If you have a dark-colored house, paint it a lighter color. Easier said than done. Plus, expensive.
- Hang nets that will deter the birds from getting to your wood siding in the first place. This should be done especially if you have aluminum siding and the birds are convinced it's wood. (More annoying in the morning.)
- Put a plastic owl on your house that has paper wings that will flutter in the wind.
- If you are technologically enabled, set up a sound system with woodpecker distress calls, and include the call of a hawk. An enterprising young person in the Lamorinda area who does not like to be awakened by woodpeckers might consider putting this on YouTube for distribution to the general public and the Overall General Good, plus for adding to a college application.

If all else fails, one may set up a camera, a suet bag or feeder, snap away at the clown-like birds that live everywhere in this area ... and put up “Most Wanted” posters.



Architect George Kinnell demonstrates how to prevent acorn woodpeckers from burrowing into your house, especially when it's been freshly painted.

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