

*Hutchinson, A., *K.D. Hooker and D.E. Gammon. 2001. Biotic and abiotic factors that influence directional nest cavity placement in Northern Flickers. *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* 35(3):112-119.

We asked the question: Why do Northern Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*) excavate cavities in the direction that they do? We developed a map of cavity-bearing trees within a three-acre study area and indicated nest cavity direction on each cavity-bearing tree. We then tested for possible relationships between nest cavity orientation and the location of water, the edge of the forest stand, and the direction of sunrise. We found that more cavities faced the nearest water source than what can be attributed to chance alone, but we found no relationship with direction to forest edge or direction of sunrise. We additionally found that cavities were significantly closer to the nearest water source than chance would predict. We conclude that proximity to a nearby water source is likely to be important to Northern Flickers when excavating cavities