

Carolina chickadee *Poecile carolinensis*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Paridae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

An adult Carolina chickadee is four and one-fourth to four and three-fourths inches long. The male and female are similar in appearance. This bird has gray body feathers with black chest feathers. The bill is short and black. Its black head has white cheeks. There is no white patch on its gray wing, like there is in the larger black-capped chickadee that may be confused with this species.

BEHAVIORS

The Carolina chickadee is a common, permanent resident in southern and east central Illinois. It lives in wooded areas, groves and willow thickets. This bird eats insects and spiders. It is very acrobatic and can hang upside down. The call is a high pitched, rapid "fee-bee, fee-bay." The nest is placed in a tree cavity, fence post or bluebird box. Six to eight white eggs with brown markings are laid.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests; rivers and streams

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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