## pileated woodpecker

## Dryocopus pileatus

Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Piciformes Family: Picidae

## **ILLINOIS STATUS**

common, native

## **ILLINOIS RANGE**

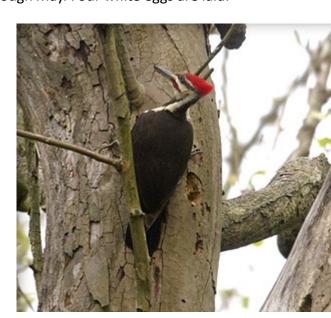


#### **FEATURES**

An adult pileated woodpecker is 16 to 20 inches long. This bird is the largest woodpecker in North America. A red-feathered crest is present on the top of the head. The rest of the body feathers are black except for the underside of the wing, which has white feathers. It has zygodactylous feet (two toes forward, two toes backward). The male has bright red feathers on the forehead and a red spot on each side of the mouth. The female has no red markings on the forehead or cheek.

#### **BEHAVIORS**

The pileated woodpecker is a permanent, statewide resident in Illinois. It lives in bottomland forests and woodlots. This bird feeds on ants, wood-boring beetles, other insects, acorns and berries. It is able to make large, oval holes in trees or wood by using the heavy bill. The call of this woodpecker is "kikkikkik-kik-kik." The pileated woodpecker nests in large trees, especially sycamores, in bottomland forests. The nesting season occurs from April through May. Four white eggs are laid.



male
© Chris Young, State Journal-Register

© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2021. *Biodiversity of Illinois*. Unless otherwise noted, photos and images © Illinois Department of Natural Resources.



© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2021. *Biodiversity of Illinois*. Unless otherwise noted, photos and images © Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

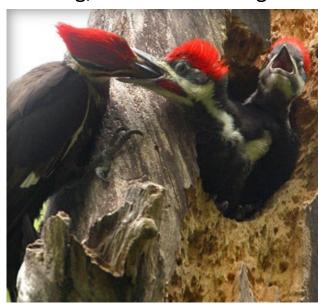




adults and young

images © Chris Young, State Journal-Register





Aquatic Habitats bottomland forests

# **Woodland Habitats**

bottomland forests; upland deciduous forests

# Prairie and Edge Habitats

none