

Pileated Woodpecker

(Dryocopus pileatus)



Pileated Woodpecker

Instant ID

- A large black, red and white bird up to 19 1/2 inches long
- A white stripe through the face continues down the neck to underside of wing
- Both males and females have a prominent red crest
- Females have a black patch on the forehead
- Males have a red cheek

Native Niches

- Frequents hardwood forests with mature trees
- Found throughout the eastern United States, up into the boreal forests of Canada and the forests of the Pacific Coast

Favorite Foods

- Pecks trees to get adult insects and grubs under the bark
- Diets are supplemented by berries, fruits and nuts







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Critter Characteristics

- Largest woodpecker in Florida
- Unlike most other woodpeckers, it will feed at the bottom of trees or on fallen trees
- Makes large cavities (holes) in trees to live in
- Often uses nesting holes for only one season
- Abandoned holes are used by owls, ducks, bats and many other animals
- Sometimes confused for the probably extinct ivory-billed woodpecker

Population Protection

- Preserving and promoting mature forests ensures trees large enough for pileated cavities
- Protecting woodpeckers protects all species that live in tree cavities



