

Pileated Woodpeckers

at their nest in a sugar maple

Young Pileated Woodpeckers grow up in a tree hole excavated by their parents. Pileated Woodpeckers use their chisel-like bills to chip away at the wood for several weeks to create the cavity where the female lays her eggs. She and her mate bring food to the cavity until the young fledge about 24–31 days after hatching.

The abandoned nest cavity becomes a valuable home for other animals, especially species such as ducks and owls that can't excavate their own. Boreal Owls, Northern Saw-whet Owls, Wood Ducks, Buffleheads, Barrow's Goldeneyes, squirrels, and bats are among at least 38 vertebrate species that use Pileated Woodpecker cavities.

The Cornell Lab

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