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Kale, H. W., II, B. Pranty, B. M. Stith, and C. W. Biggs. 1992. The atlas of the breeding birds of Florida. Final Report. Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.

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Eastern Wood-Pewee *Contopus virens*

The plaintive, nasal "pee-wee" or "pee-a-wee" call readily identifies this small, otherwise plain Tyrant Flycatcher. The Eastern Wood-Pewee breeds in the eastern half of the continent, from southern Canada to central Texas and north-central Florida. Winters are spent in Central and South America. In Florida the Eastern Wood-Pewee is a migrant throughout the state. It regularly summers throughout the Panhandle and north Florida.

Habitat. The Eastern Wood-Pewee breeds in open woodlands or open edges in deciduous or mixed forests and pine flatwoods. Much of its diet consists of flying insects taken in flight.

The nest is very difficult to locate, unless the bird is seen when building the nest or when feeding the young. It is a shallow cup composed of grasses and weed stems, saddled on a horizontal limb, usually in a fork, and covered with spider webs and lichens. Built by the female, the nest is located 4.5 to 18 m (15 to 60 ft) above the ground. Three white eggs, wreathed around the larger end with splotches of brown and purple, comprise a typical clutch. The young hatch in 12 to 13 days and fledge 15 to 18 days later. This long nesting period, typical of flycatchers, may help observers locate nests.

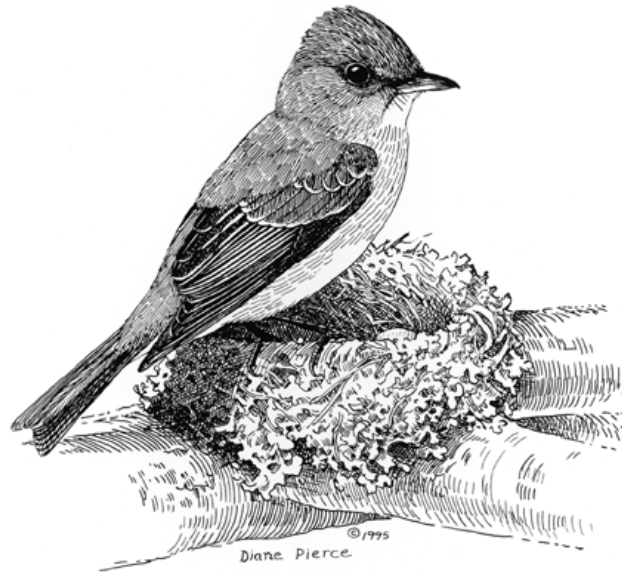


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The Eastern Wood-Pewee is a fairly regular Brown-headed Cowbird host.

Seasonal Occurrence. The Eastern Wood-Pewee arrives in Florida in March or April and stays until late October or early November. One brood is raised per season, from May through June or possibly July (Stevenson and Anderson 1994). Though it has been reported in the winter, there are no confirmed records.

Status. Few recent ecological studies of the Eastern Wood-Pewee have been conducted; therefore, the status of the species is poorly understood. During the Atlas project 2 reports of birds south of the breeding range were noted: Manatee County on 12 and 13 June 1988 (J. Cox, VRF 1988) and far south in Palm Beach County from June 1987 through the summer (Paul 1987). However, none of these records confirmed breeding, and the bird may have been late migrants. Historically, breeding has been suspected as far south as Pinellas County (Howell 1932) and documented in Volusia County (Stevenson and Anderson 1994), but the Atlas project mapped confirmed breeding only in the Panhandle and north Florida.

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Eastern Wood-Pewee

