

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE

Contopus virens

SARA STATUS: SPECIAL CONCERN

IDENTIFICATION TIPS:

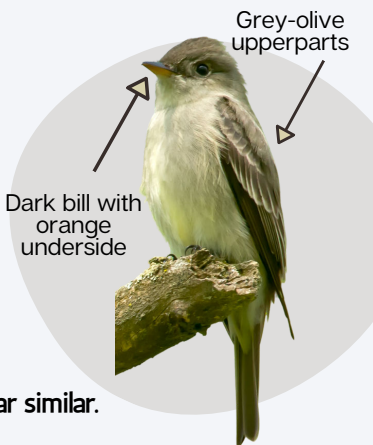
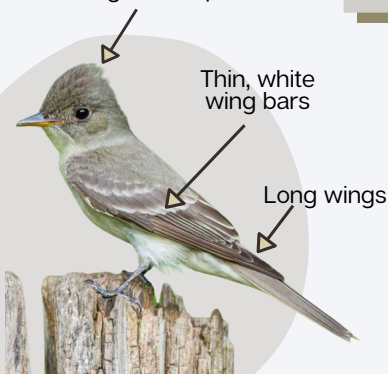
Head is peaked, with a triangular shape

Weight: 10-19g

Length: 15cm

Wingspan: 23-26cm

Medium-sized flycatcher.

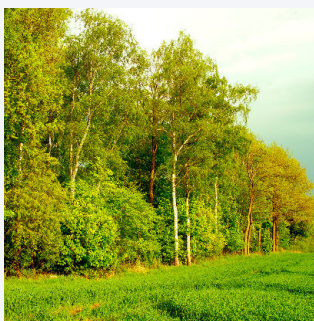


Males and females appear similar.

Very distinct **song** that sounds like "Pee-ah-wee"

HABITAT

The eastern wood-pewee breeds in mixed and deciduous forests across its range. It tends to use forests with a more open canopy and is often associated with forest edges and clearings. The species tends to avoid young forests and coniferous-dominated forests.



THREATS

Threats to the eastern wood-pewee are not well known due to limited research, though they are expected to occur on their breeding and wintering grounds, and migration routes.

- **Mortality during migration** as a result of increased occurrence of severe storms.
- **A change in food supply** due to reduced aerial insect densities related to pesticides, climate change and environmental contaminants.
- **Habitat loss and degradation on wintering grounds** due to high deforestation rates in South America.



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NEST

Eastern wood-pewees nest in trees or saplings such as elms, maples, birches, or oaks. The nest is usually **2 - 21 metres off the ground**.

The nest is a small cup made of weeds, wool, bark strips, twigs, roots, mosses, pine needles, leaves and woven grass, covered in lichens that provide it with **excellent camouflage**. The inner cup is lined with hair, grass, moss, lichens and plant fibers to insulate from the weather.

The female lays **2-4 eggs**, and incubates them for 12-14 days. Chicks are fledged after 16-18 days.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Avoid the use of insecticides whenever possible.
- Limit forest management activities during critical periods (May-August) when Eastern Wood-pewees and other forest birds are nesting and rearing young.
- Plant trees, shrubs and flowers that are native to PEI. Non-native plants can threaten ecosystems (such as wetlands, forests, and riparian zones) by outcompeting native plants, and do not provide the same habitat benefits as native vegetation.
- Maintain uneven-aged forest stands, creating small canopy gaps.
- Report any sightings of Eastern Wood-pewee using [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org) or to Julie-Lynn Zahavich using the contact information below!

Julie-Lynn Zahavich

Environment, Energy and Climate Action

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