



great crested flycatcher

Myiarchus crinitus

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata
Class: Aves
Order: Passeriformes
Family: Tyrannidae

FEATURES

The great crested flycatcher averages about eight to nine inches in length. Its wings and tail are red-brown. The breast is gray, and the belly is yellow. The head may have a crest of feathers.

BEHAVIORS

The great crested flycatcher is a common migrant and summer resident statewide. It winters from Florida to northern South America. Spring migrants begin arriving in Illinois in April. Nesting takes place in May and June. The nest site may be in upland or bottomland woods, mainly in an oak tree in the forest interior. This flycatcher may nest in a tree cavity, old woodpecker hole or nest box. The nest is made of leaves, feathers, hair, sticks, bark and other materials. A snake skin is usually placed in the nest. Both sexes construct the nest over a two-week period. The female deposits three to seven white or yellow-white eggs with purple blotches. She alone incubates the eggs for the 13- to 15-day incubation period. Fall migration begins in August. The great crested flycatcher lives in woodlands, swamps, old orchards and groves of trees. Its call is "creep" or

"prrrreeet." It tends to stay in leafy parts of trees so it may be hard to see except when it flies from its perch to capture an insect. This bird eats insects while in flight and picks them off leaves high in trees.

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident:

Summer resident: statewide.

Migrant: statewide.

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.