



tufted titmouse

Baeolophus bicolor

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

FEATURES

The tufted titmouse averages six inches in length. It has a gray head, back, wings and tail. The bill is dark. There is a crest on the head. The belly is white with a reddish wash.

BEHAVIORS

The tufted titmouse is a common, permanent resident statewide in Illinois. Nesting takes place from April through May. The nest may be built in a tree cavity, old woodpecker nest cavity or nest box. The nest is placed from two to 85 feet above the ground. The nest is lined with leaves, grasses, mosses, bark, fur, hair and other objects. Four to nine white eggs with dark speckles are laid by the female. She alone incubates the eggs for the 13- to 14-day incubation period. The tufted titmouse lives in deciduous woodlands, coniferous woods, residential areas, parks, swamps and orchards. It sings "peter, peter, peter" and several whistled calls. It hunts for food with other species of birds. The tufted titmouse eats insects, seeds and berries.

HABITATS

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

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
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