

Note:

PILEATED WOODPECKER EATING RUSSIAN OLIVE FRUITS. — Vegetable materials are known to be regular dietary components for the Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*). Beal (U.S. Dept. Agr. Bull. 37, pp. 1-64, 1911) found 27.12% vegetable and miscellaneous (non-insect) materials in 80 stomach analyses over an annual cycle. Hoyt (Ecology 38.2, pp. 246-256, 1957) recorded utilization of about 25% vegetable matter in the diet as an annual average. She also noted seasonal variations, with fruit and mast materials being used mainly in the fall. Fruits used included grapes, Virginia creeper, sumac, wild cherries, poison ivy, and dogwood.

Analyses of 26 Pileated Woodpecker droppings from two excavation sites in Grand Forks, North Dakota during early February to mid-April 1976 revealed the presence of Russian olive seeds (*Eleagnus argentea*). Data were insufficient to speculate on quantitative or qualitative dietary importance of Russian olive fruits beyond merely their use by this one woodpecker. This, as far as is known, is the first recorded instance of Pileated Woodpeckers utilizing Russian olive fruits for food.

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