

# Boreal Chickadee



Photo: Peter Caulfield

**IDENTIFICATION AND SONG** Similar to more common Black-capped Chickadee but crown and back brown and sides reddish brown. Song a husky, buzzy zick-a-zee-zee, lazier and more nasal than call of Black-capped Chickadee. Year-round resident of northern Maine.

**NEST** Uses cavities in snags, stumps, or branch stubs with soft heartwood. May excavate new cavity or use existing woodpecker or natural cavity of appropriate size. No evidence for tree species preference. Cavities usually <10' from ground.

**FOOD** Seeds, berries, variety of insects.

**TERRITORY SIZE** Can be over 10 acres.

**FOREST CONDITION** Prefers older forests with >80% canopy cover and tall (>50') conifer trees, though found in younger coniferous forests with available cavity or decaying trees. Prefers spruce and balsam fir. Typically replaced by Black-capped Chickadee in mixedwoods.

**FOREST HABITAT ASSOCIATION** Prefers *Northern Softwood* forest.

**HABITAT AGE CLASS** Prefers *older* forest (dominant trees 70-100 years old and 10-16" diameter), but will use *intermediate* forest (dominant trees 20-70 years old and 5-10" diameter) or *young* forest (dominant trees 0-10 years/0-25 years old and <1"/1-5" diameter).

## HABITAT FEATURES



**LAYERS** Light gray lines divide overstory (>30'), midstory (6-30'), and understory (<6'), and are not to scale

← **BIRD** Layer where bird typically seen and/or where male typically sings

← **NEST** Typical nest type and height

Generalized graphic depicting forest type, age, layer, and any special features where the bird and nest are typically found.

**MANAGEMENT NOTES** Maintain stands with abundant snags >12" DBH for cavity excavation. Retain spruce and balsam fir as preferred tree species. In younger stands if cavity trees present