

Pileated Woodlicker
Dryocopus Vermilingua
The Oddubon Collection

This ingenious and versatile bird of the wood uses its substantial tongue to locate food within the depths of trees, discovering all manner of burrowing insects. Oddubon noted in particular the reptilian features of the Woodlicker, especially the binocular vision, so that both eyes may focus on a single area at once, very useful in locating prey. The slit eyes, found as well in most nocturnal snakes, adds to this creature's allure. Indeed, Oddubon himself witnessed one Pileated Woodlicker locate with its tongue the prey (in a small cavity of a locust tree) and then "...shimmy, snake-like" following with its whole body and disappearing.



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