

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

PILEATED WOODPECKERS (*DRYOCOPUS PILEATUS*)

STORE ACORNS BEHIND SCREEN DOOR

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The Acorn Woodpecker (*Picus formicivorus*) is known to store acorns in holes excavated in dead trees. It is not often reported that other woodpeckers exhibit storage behavior.

Mel and Bob Schultz, of Auburn, Lee County, Alabama, told me of woodpeckers storing acorns at their home. On 25 October 1990, Bob opened their door and found a small pile of water oak (*Quercus nigra*) acorns on the threshold. Later that morning as Bob started to drive away, a Pileated Woodpecker landed on the stoop and thrust an acorn through a crack in the loose-fitting screen door. This was immediately followed by a second Pileated with another acorn. The woodpeckers made numerous trips during that day leaving a total of 61 acorns. The next day only one acorn appeared on the threshold.

Pileated Woodpeckers have been in that area for a number of years, but have never exhibited acorn storage behavior. There is always a good supply of water oak acorns available in the fall and the door has continued to be slightly ajar but the birds have never repeated this storage behavior. **Julian L. Dusi**, Department of Zoology and Wildlife Science, Auburn University, Auburn University, AL 36849-5414.