



Lincoln's sparrow

Melospiza lincolnii

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates
Class: Aves
Order: Passeriformes
Family: Emberizidae

FEATURES

An adult Lincoln's sparrow is five to five and one-half inches in length. The male and female are similar in appearance. This bird has a brown- and tan-speckled body and stripes on its head. The belly, chest, and throat are cream-colored. There are thin, brown streaks on the chest. The sides of the face are gray-blue. There is a thin, cream ring around each eye.

BEHAVIORS

Lincoln's sparrow is a fairly common migrant and rare winter resident in Illinois. It winters from the southern United States south to central America. Lincoln's sparrow lives in woodland thickets, wet meadows and bogs. This bird eats mostly insects and seeds. It hides in brush and grassy plants. The call of this bird is a gurgling noise. Nesting occurs from northern Wisconsin to Alaska. It may occasionally nest in Illinois. Spring migrants begin arriving in Illinois in late April. Fall migration typically begins in September.

HABITATS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests | <input type="checkbox"/> rivers & streams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lakes, ponds & reservoirs | <input type="checkbox"/> swamps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> temp water supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> marshes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> wet prairies & fens |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> peatlands | |

ILLINOIS STATUS

- | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> common | <input type="checkbox"/> endangered | <input type="checkbox"/> threatened |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>native</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>exotic</u> | |

ILLINOIS RANGE

Winter resident: southern 1/3. Migrant: statewide.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999. *Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.