



ovenbird

Seiurus aurocapilla

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

FEATURES

The ovenbird is five and one-half to six and one-half inches long. The olive-brown body has a white belly with brown stripes. The top of its head has a peach stripe. The legs are pale pink.

BEHAVIORS

The ovenbird is a statewide migrant and uncommon summer resident in Illinois. It winters from the southern United States south to northern Venezuela. The ovenbird lives in woodlands or thickets. It is an insectivore. This bird is heard more often than it is seen. It stays on or near the ground and walks rather than hops. The song is a series of repeated "teacher." Spring migrants begin arriving in Illinois in April. Nesting occurs from May through July. The nest is built on the ground in a bottomland forest. The shape of the nest, like a Dutch oven, gives this bird its common name. Four to six white eggs with red-brown spots are laid. Nests are often parasitized by the brown-headed cowbird, which deposits an egg for the ovenbirds to raise, taking food and care away from their own young. Fall migration begins in August.

HABITATS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> wet prairies & fens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> peatlands | |

ILLINOIS STATUS

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

ILLINOIS RANGE

Summer resident: statewide. Migrant: statewide.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2006.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.