



## cerulean warbler

*Dendroica cerulea*

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

### FEATURES

The cerulean warbler averages four and one-half inches in length. The male is blue on the back and white underneath. He has a thin, black band that can be seen on the upper chest. The female is olive-green on the back and white underneath. She has a white line on the head directly above each eye. Both sexes have two, white bars on each wing.

### BEHAVIORS

The cerulean warbler is a common migrant and summer resident statewide. It winters as far south as northern South America. Spring migrants begin arriving in Illinois in April. The nest is built in a large tree at a height of 20 to 60 feet above ground. It is composed of grasses, plant fibers, bark, mosses and lichens and lined with plant fibers, mosses and hair. Spider webs are collected and used to help hold the nest together on the outside. The female lays three to five white, gray-white or green-white eggs which are speckled with brown, and she alone incubates them. Fall migration begins in August. This bird lives in the treetops in bottomland forests and upland forests. Its song is a "buzzing" sound like "zray zray zray zreeeee." Like all warblers, this bird feeds on insects.

### HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

### ILLINOIS STATUS

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

### ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident:  
 Summer resident: statewide  
 Migrant: statewide  
 Winter resident:

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.  
 Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.