



## wood thrush

*Hylocichla mustelina*

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

### FEATURES

The wood thrush averages eight inches in length. It has a brown back with a rust-red head. The white belly has dark, round spots. The immature thrush has a brown head.

### BEHAVIORS

The wood thrush is a common migrant and summer resident statewide. It winters from south Texas to northern South America. Spring migrants begin arriving in Illinois in late April. Nesting takes place from May through July. The nest is placed from six to 50 feet above the ground in a tree. It is made of grasses, bark and other plant materials mixed with mud and lined with rootlets. The female completes nest construction in about five days. Three to four blue or blue-green eggs are deposited and incubated by the female for 13 days. The male guards the nest while the female is off of it. Two broods are raised each year. Nests are often parasitized by the brown-headed cowbird, which deposits an egg that the wood thrush will hatch and raise, taking food and care away from its own young. Fall migration begins in September. The wood thrush lives in bottomland

forests and wooded ravines on river bluffs. It has a flutelike song, which may be heard as it sings at dawn and dusk. Its call notes are a series of "pits." This bird stays on or near the ground, eating insects, millipedes and fruits.

### HABITATS

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

### ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- 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.