



## winter wren

*Troglodytes troglodytes*

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

## FEATURES

The winter wren is the smallest wren in North America. Its maximum length is about four inches. This dark red-brown bird has a short, stubby tail. A light line over the eye helps to distinguish it from the house wren. Black bars can be seen on the belly and under the tail.

## BEHAVIORS

The winter wren is a common migrant statewide and an uncommon winter resident statewide in Illinois. It does not nest in Illinois but does nest in Wisconsin and Michigan in the Midwest. The nest is placed in the roots of a fallen tree, in or under a stump, in an old woodpecker hole or in any other available cavity. It is built of mosses, grasses, weeds and twigs and lined with hair and feathers. Four to seven white eggs with red-brown marks are laid by the female. This bird may be found in conifer forests and near water in woodlands where there are many downed trees. It may also be seen at logjams in streams, brushy areas and open fields. The song is a series of trills and warbles. Like all wrens, it eats insects and spiders.

## HABITATS

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

## ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

## ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident:

Summer resident:

Migrant: statewide

Winter resident: statewide

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.

Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.