



worm-eating warbler

Helmitheros vermivorum

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

FEATURES

The worm-eating warbler averages about five to five and one-half inches in length. It is dull olive-green with black stripes on its buff-colored head. The breast is brownish.

BEHAVIORS

The worm-eating warbler lives in dry, wooded slopes. It breeds in all except the northeastern one-fourth of Illinois. In winter it lives in the West Indies and central America. During spring migration this bird begins arriving in Illinois in April. Its song is a buzzing sound. The nest is built on the ground, usually under vegetation. This nest of dead leaves is lined with mosses and hair. Three to six white eggs with brown markings are deposited. The female alone incubates for the 13-day incubation period. Fall migration out of Illinois begins in September. The worm-eating warbler feeds near or on the ground, eating insects.

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 except the northeastern 1/4

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2006.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.