



purple finch

Carpodacus purpureus

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

FEATURES

The purple finch averages five and one-half to six inches in length. The male is raspberry-colored with brown areas on its wings and tail. The female and immature have large, dark stripes on their white breast. They are brown in other areas and have a dark stripe on the lower cheek. Purple finches have a sturdy beak.

BEHAVIORS

The purple finch is a common migrant through Illinois. It winters throughout the state but not in large numbers. Fall migrants begin arriving in early September. Most purple finches have migrated out of Illinois by early June. This bird may be seen in woods, groves and, in winter, urban areas. It lives in coniferous forests in summer. The purple finch has a warbling song. It breeds in southern Canada, the northeastern United States and the upper Midwest, nesting in conifer trees with the nest placed from five to 60 feet above the ground. The female builds the nest of grasses, twigs and bark and lines it with fine grasses and hair. Three to five eggs, pale green-blue with dark spots and markings, are deposited by the female. She alone incubates for the 13-day incubation period. The purple finch eats seeds and 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:

Migrant: statewide

Winter resident: statewide.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.

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