



State of Illinois  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

# Illinois Common Birds



Words in **bold** can be found in the Glossary.

# What are Birds?

Birds are warm-blooded animals with feathers, hard-shelled eggs and lightweight bones.

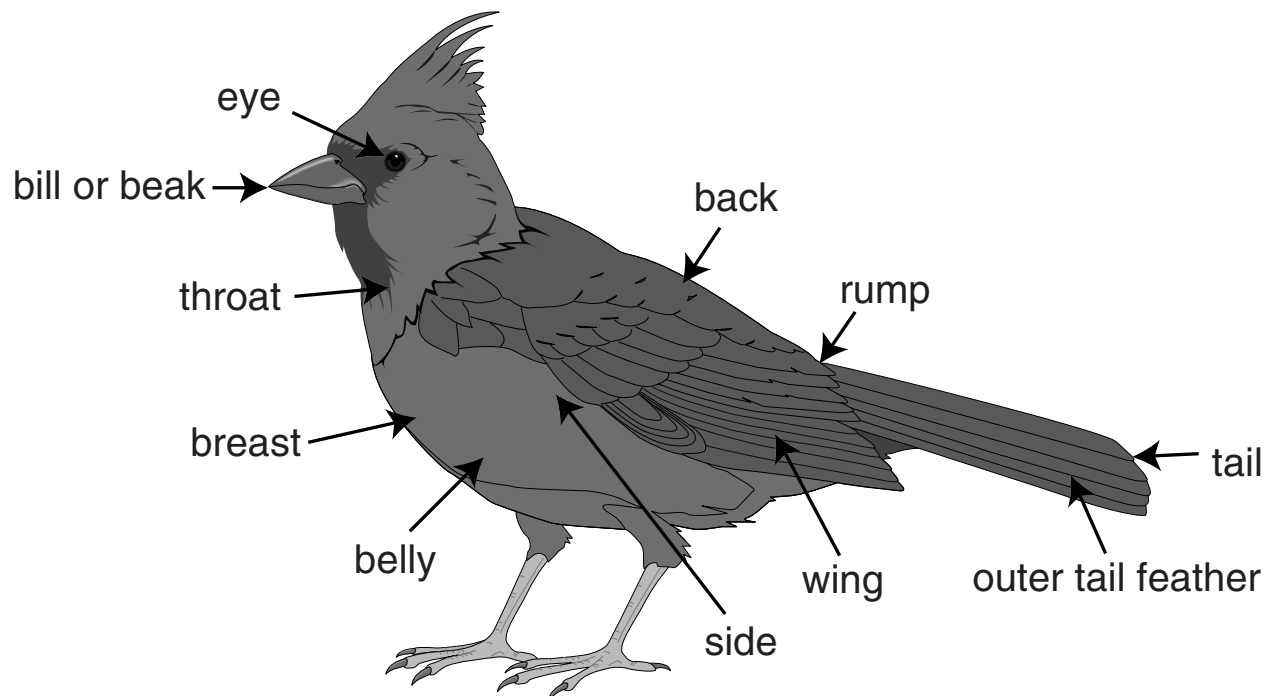
Because they are warm-blooded, birds can maintain a constant internal body temperature and be active when their natural environment has extremes of very warm or very cold conditions.

Feathers are used for flight, protection and attraction of a mate. They also aid in controlling body temperature and in helping birds to identify other birds.

Birds lay hard-shelled eggs. The hard shell, made mostly of **calcium carbonate**, keeps the egg from drying out and allows parents to sit on the eggs during **incubation**.

Lightweight bones are necessary for flight. Bird bones are strong and have internal braces. Many bird bones are filled with air and are connected to the respiratory system. Other bones are fused together, increasing their strength.

## Parts of a Bird



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# Bird Banter

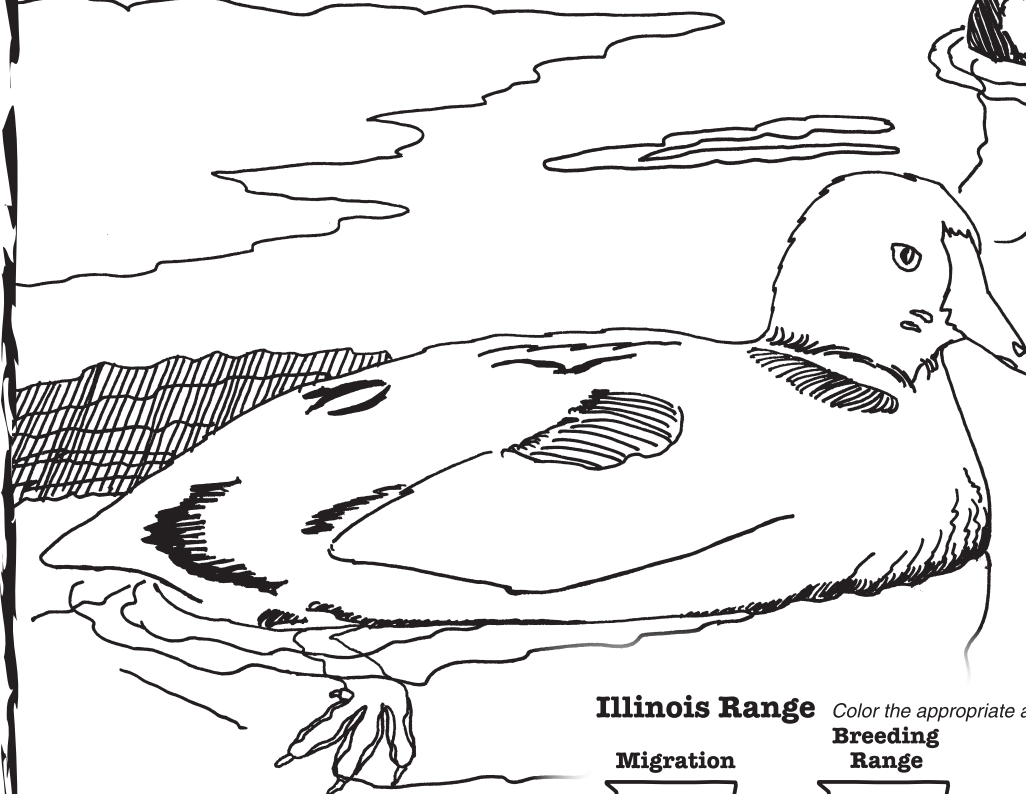
- Birds have a high **metabolic rate** and must eat great quantities of food. For example, hummingbirds must eat twice their weight in food daily. Most birds must continually search for food.
- Birds don't have teeth. They use the thick walls of their **gizzard** to break food into smaller pieces. Small stones and grit picked up while feeding remain in the gizzard and help to grind food, too.
- Beaks, or bills, are amazing tools. They are used for capturing and eating food, defense, feeding young, gathering nesting materials, building nests, **preening**, scratching, courting and attacking.
- Birds don't have vocal cords. To produce sounds, vibrations are sent across the syrinx (voice box) of a bird. The more muscles a bird has attached to the syrinx, the more sounds it can make. For instance, the northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) has many muscles and can produce a variety of sounds, while the rock pigeon's (*Columba livia*) single pair of muscles results in only a single "coo" sound.
- More than one-third of the world's birds migrate. Migration is an adaptation to changes in the environment, usually seasonal (weather, lack of food, need for nesting space). Migrating birds move from the area where they raise young to their winter home and back again. Some birds are daytime migrants. They fly along routes marked by landmarks such as rivers, coastlines, mountains and lakes. Other birds are nocturnal migrants. They use the position of the stars and moon and the earth's magnetic field to help them find their way.
- More than 400 bird species have been recorded as living in or migrating through Illinois! On the following pages you can learn about 18 of these species. How many of them have you seen in the wild?

## Using this Activity Book -

### For the Educator

When using this book from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) Division of Education, students will become familiar with the traits and appearance of 18 bird species commonly seen in our state. Although targeted to **grades three through six**, this resource may be adapted for other grades as well. The *Illinois Birds* unit, resources trunk, video podcasts and publications from the IDNR can help you teach about birds, too. You will find these and other supplemental items through the Web pages at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education> and <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/publications>. Contact the IDNR Division of Education at 217-524-4126 or [dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov) for more information.

**What color is it?** The American coot (13-16 inches) is dark blue-gray with darker feathers on its head and throat. The bill is white with a red spot at the base. Eyes are red, while legs and feet are green-yellow.



**Where does it live?**

It is often seen in areas of short grasses around open water or swimming on lakes and ponds.

**What does it eat?**

It eats insects, crayfish, snails and aquatic plants and may dive in deep water to find food.

**Illinois Range**

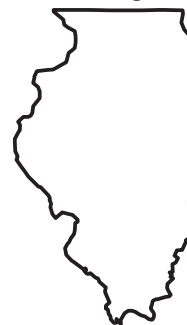
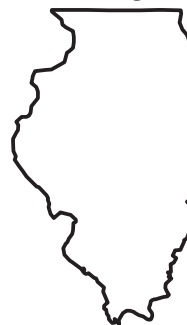
Color the appropriate areas on the map(s) for this species.

Migration

Breeding Range

Winter Range

Permanent Resident



*Fulica americana*

# American coot

**What else should I know about it?** The American coot migrates through Illinois on its way to and from its wintering grounds in the southern United States, although some of the birds may spend the winter in southern Illinois, too. Migration occurs at night. The coot breeds in the northern half of the state, nesting on floating mats of vegetation. The call of this bird is "kuk-kuk-kuk."

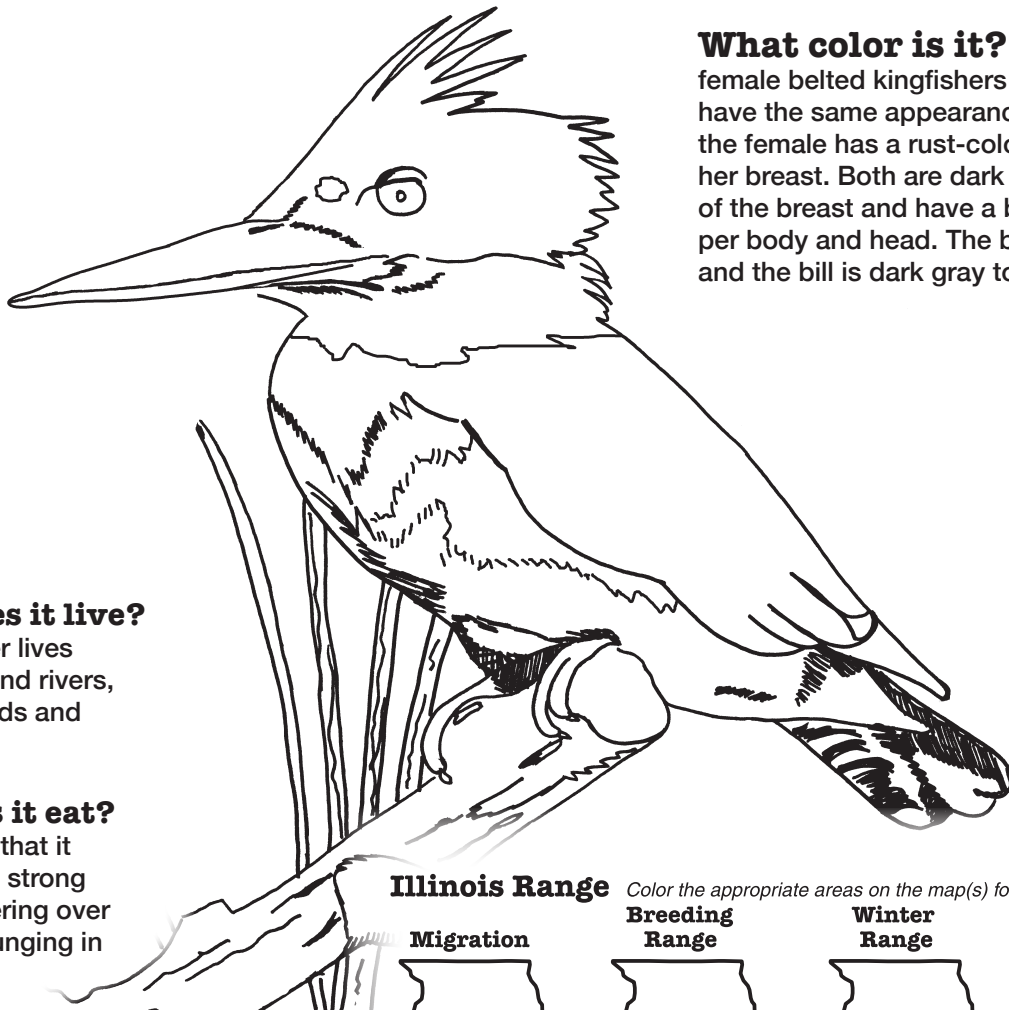
**In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?**

Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic      Woodland      Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

**Fill Me In!**

A m\_\_g\_\_a\_\_ory bird is one that lives part of the year in one location, usually where it nests and raises its young, and part of the year in another location, usually where it can find ample food and cover in the non-breeding season.



female

**What color is it?** Male and female belted kingfishers (11-14 inches) have the same appearance, except that the female has a rust-colored stripe on her breast. Both are dark gray at the top of the breast and have a blue-gray upper body and head. The belly is white, and the bill is dark gray to black.

**Where does it live?**

The kingfisher lives along or around rivers, streams, ponds and lakes.

**What does it eat?**

It eats fishes that it catches in its strong beak by hovering over water and plunging in head first.

*Megaceryle alcyon*

**Illinois Range**

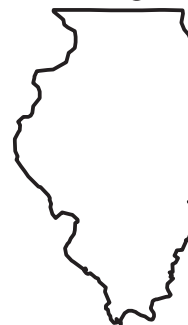
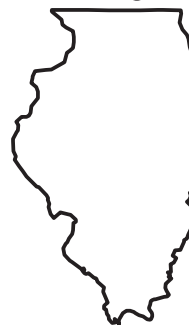
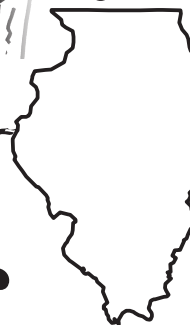
Color the appropriate areas on the map(s) for this species.

Migration

Breeding Range

Winter Range

Permanent Resident



# **belted kingfisher**

**What else should I know about it?** This common species migrates throughout Illinois and occasionally nests and spends the winter in Illinois, although the birds may travel as far as South America in winter. Its rattling call is a familiar sound around water bodies in spring and summer. The kingfisher nests in dirt banks near water and can burrow into the bank as deep as 15 feet.

**In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?**

Circle the best answer or answers.

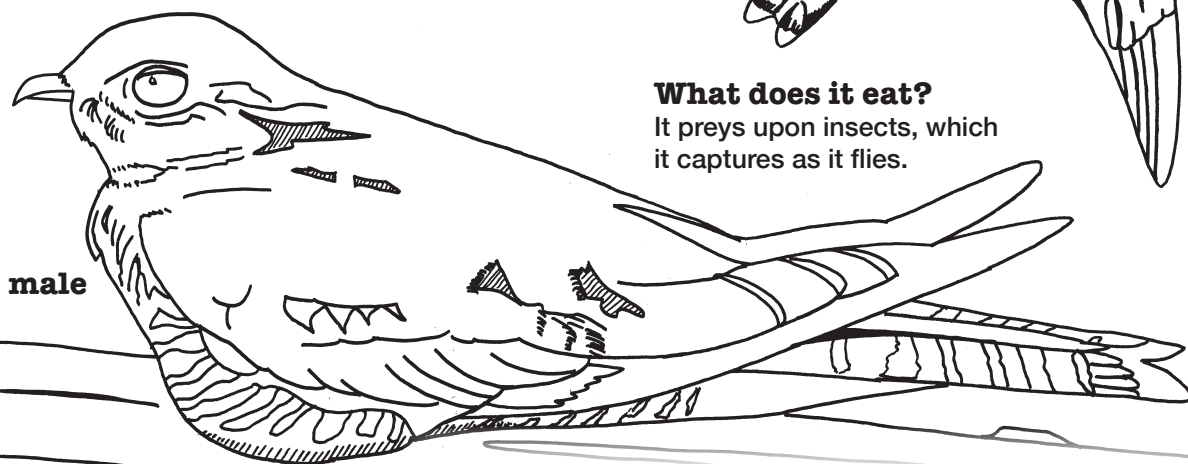
Aquatic      Woodland      Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

**Fill Me In!** The belted kingfisher catches fishes by di\_\_i\_\_g into the water head first.

**What color is it?** The common nighthawk (10 inches) is a gray-brown bird with a white bar on the underside of each wing. The male also has a white bar on the tail and a white patch on his throat. The bill is dark gray or black.

**Where does it live?** The nighthawk is a bird of open areas, including urban habitats.

**What does it eat?** It preys upon insects, which it captures as it flies.



**Illinois Range** Color the appropriate areas on the map(s) for this species.

Migration

Breeding Range

Winter Range

Permanent Resident

*Chordeiles minor*

# common nighthawk

**What else should I know about it?** Its choppy flight pattern and “peent” call help to identify the common nighthawk as it searches for food at dusk and dawn. A common migrant and summer resident throughout Illinois, it nests on the ground or on flat gravel rooftops in urban areas. It migrates at dusk and dawn and spends the winter months in South America.

## In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?

Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic      Woodland      Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

**Fill Me In!** The common nighthawk often lives in cities, or \_\_\_\_r\_\_\_\_an areas.



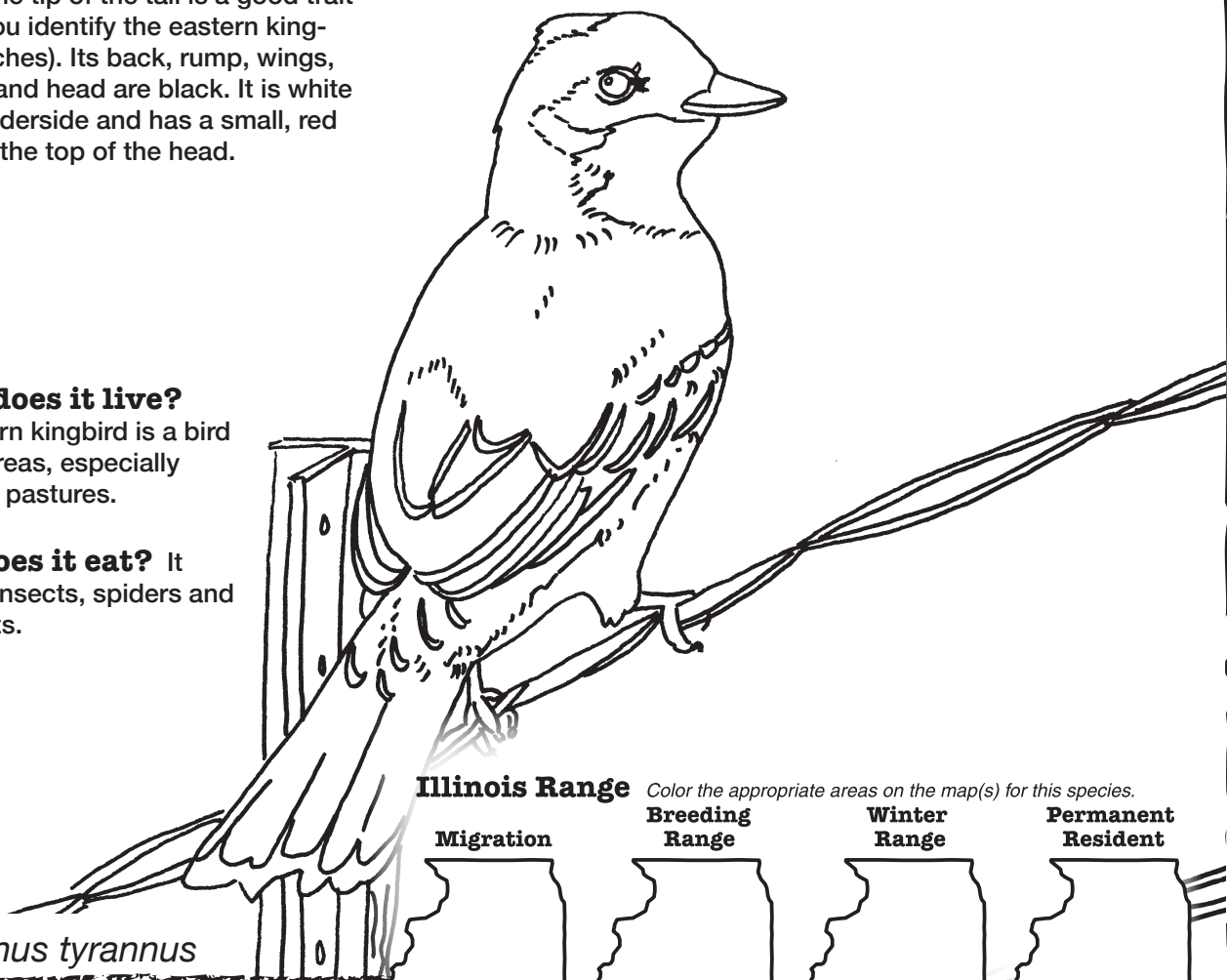
**What color is it?** The white band at the tip of the tail is a good trait to help you identify the eastern kingbird (8 inches). Its back, rump, wings, tail, legs and head are black. It is white on the underside and has a small, red patch on the top of the head.

**Where does it live?**

The eastern kingbird is a bird of open areas, especially fields and pastures.

**What does it eat?**

It feeds on insects, spiders and some fruits.



**Illinois Range**

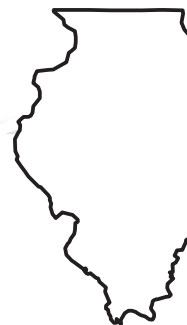
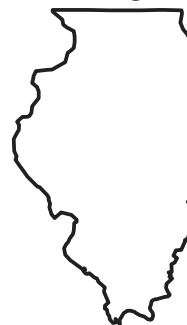
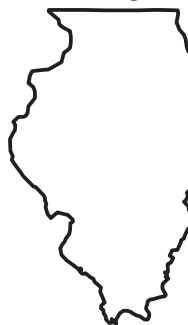
Color the appropriate areas on the map(s) for this species.

**Migration**

**Breeding Range**

**Winter Range**

**Permanent Resident**



*Tyrannus tyrannus*

# **eastern kingbird**

**What else should I know about it?** The eastern kingbird is a common migrant and summer nesting resident throughout Illinois. It spends the winter months in South America. Its song is "dzee-dzee-dzee."

**In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?**

Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic      Woodland      Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

**Fill Me In!** The eastern kingbird's \_\_\_\_hi\_\_\_\_e tail tip can be seen as it flies to catch insects.

### What color is it?

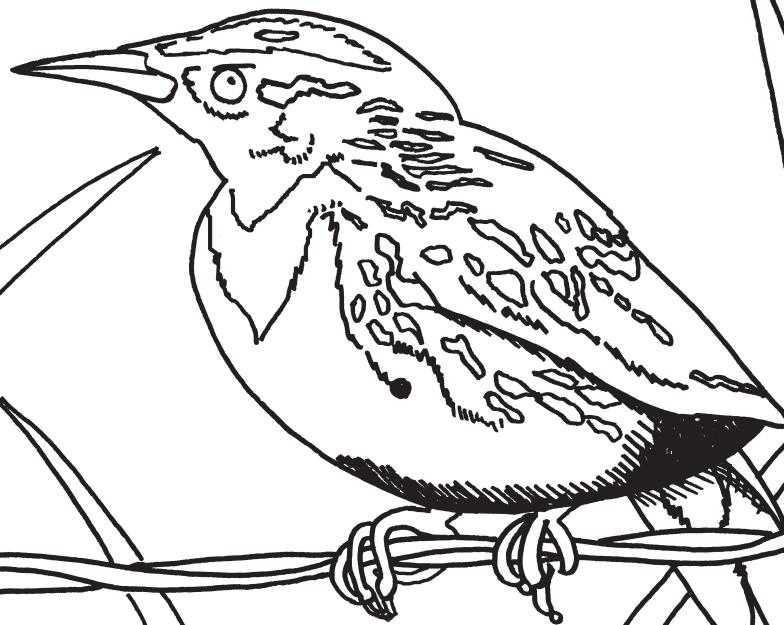
A yellow breast with a large black “v” marking is characteristic of the eastern meadowlark (9 inches). Its outer tail feathers are white, and the remainder of the bird is brown with some white streaks.

### Where does it live?

The meadowlark is a bird of open areas, such as pastures and hay fields.

### What does it eat?

It feeds on insects, seeds and grains.



### Illinois Range

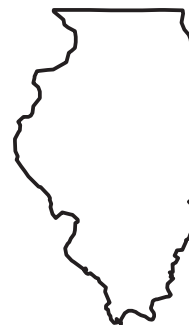
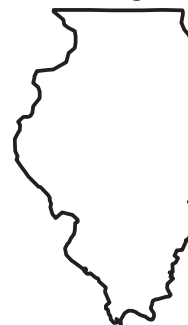
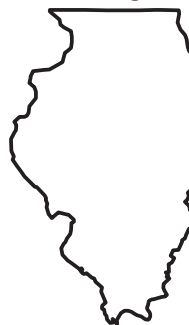
Color the appropriate areas on the map(s) for this species.

#### Migration

#### Breeding Range

#### Winter Range

#### Permanent Resident



*Sturnella magna*

## eastern meadowlark

**What else should I know about it?** The meadowlark flies with short, choppy flaps and a glide. It is often seen perched on posts in grassy areas singing “tee-yah, tee-yair.” It nests on the ground, building a nest of grasses covered with a dome of grasses. Meadowlarks migrate during the day. They may be found throughout Illinois as migrants, nesting summer residents and winter residents (southern two-thirds of Illinois only). Some meadowlarks travel as far as northern South America to spend the winter, but most only migrate a short distance.

### In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?

Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic      Woodland      Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

### Fill Me In!

The eastern meadowlark’s nest is covered with a dome of g\_\_a\_\_se\_\_ to help it remain hidden from predators.



female

**What color is it?** The eastern towhee (7-8 inches) has a rust-colored area along each side of the body. The male has a black head, throat, back, wings and tail with a white belly and breast and red eyes. The female is similar to the male in appearance, although she is brown where the male is black.

**Where does it live?** This bird may be found at the edge of forests, in thickets and in open woods habitats.

**What does it eat?** It uses its feet to scratch in dead leaves looking for the seeds, insects and small fruits that it feeds on.

male

#### Illinois Range

Color the appropriate areas on the map(s) for this species.

Migration

Breeding Range

Winter Range

Permanent Resident

*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*

## eastern towhee

**What else should I know about it?** The eastern towhee is a common migrant through Illinois, with some birds nesting in the state in summer and others residing here in winter. Some towhees travel as far as Central America to spend the winter months. Its song says, "Drink your teeeea."

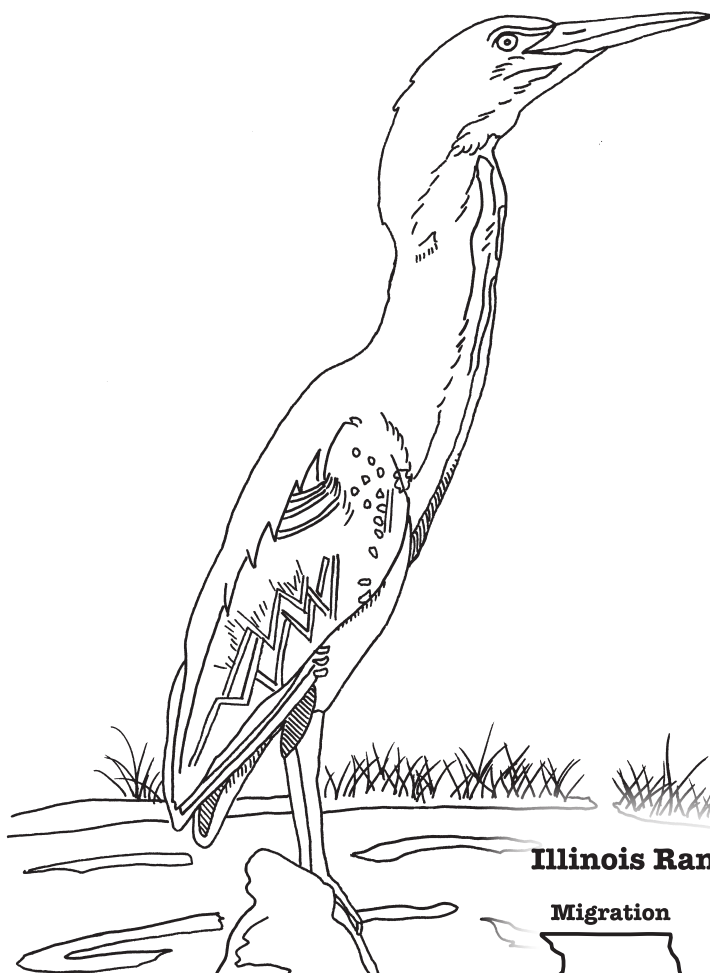
### In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?

Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic      Woodland      Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

### Fill Me In!

The eastern towhee feeds on the ground, using its feet to sc\_\_\_a\_\_\_c\_\_\_ among dead leaves for food.



**What color is it?** At 16-22 inches in length, the green heron is one of the smallest herons. Its stout, pointed bill is dark above and light below. The throat, breast and head are maroon with white patches. The top of the head is black. The back and belly are gray with green sides. Legs are green-yellow.

**Where does it live?**  
The green heron can be found at lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps and streams.

**What does it eat?**  
It eats insects, crayfish and fishes that it catches as it wades along the shore.

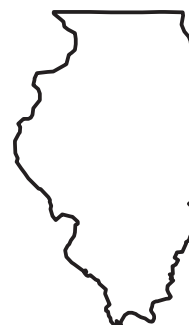
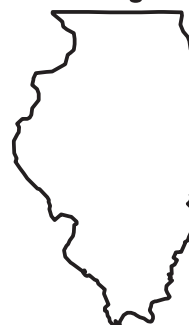
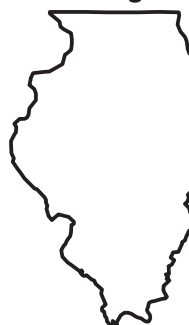
**Illinois Range** Color the appropriate areas on the map(s) for this species.

Migration

Breeding Range

Winter Range

Permanent Resident



*Butorides virescens*

# green heron

**What else should I know about it?** The green heron is a common nocturnal migrant and a nesting summer resident in Illinois. In the winter months, it may be found from Florida to northern South America. When startled, it may call "skeeow." This bird usually nests in willow trees near water.

## In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?

Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic      Woodland      Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

**Fill Me In!** The green heron is a w\_\_\_d\_\_\_n\_\_\_ bird, feeding on animals it finds at the edge of water bodies.

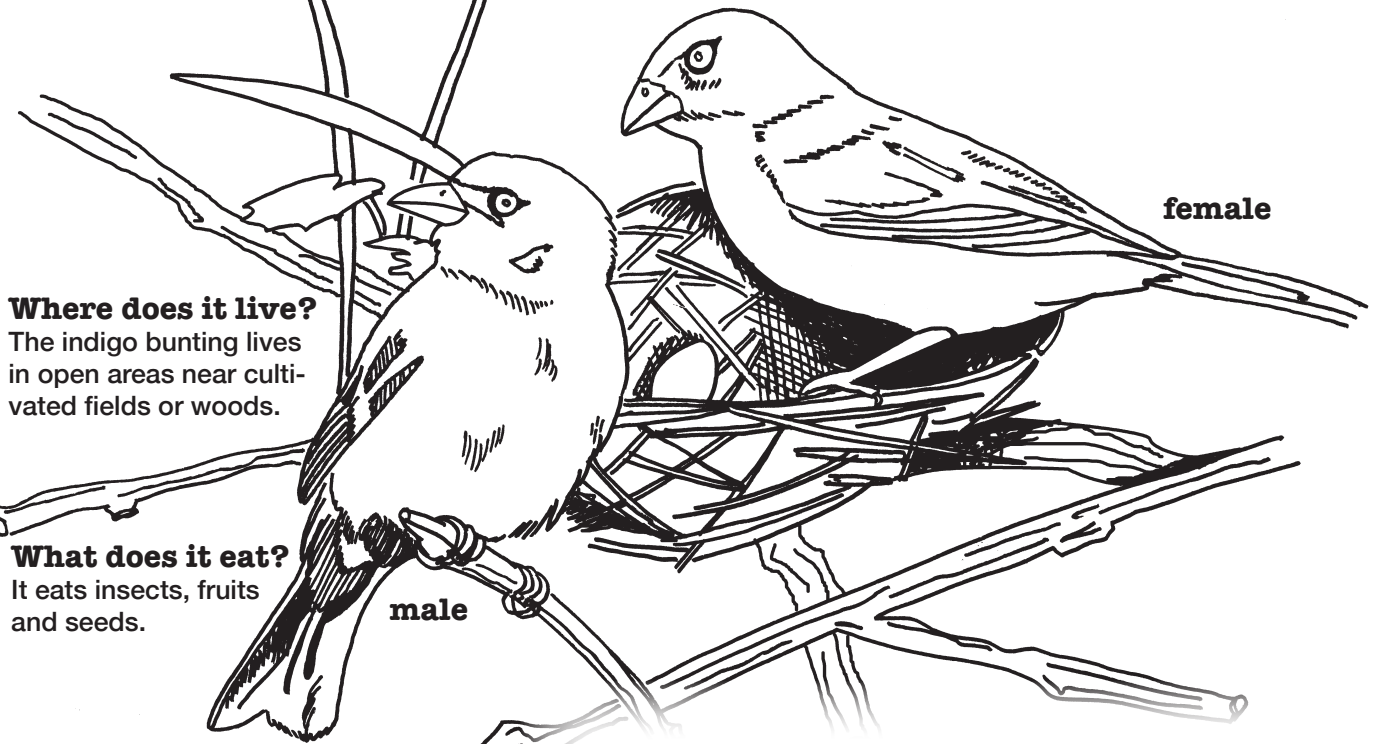
**What color is it?** A small bird (5-6 inches), the male indigo bunting is iridescent bright blue in the breeding season and a mix of brown and blue at other times. The female is brown.

**Where does it live?**

The indigo bunting lives in open areas near cultivated fields or woods.

**What does it eat?**

It eats insects, fruits and seeds.



male

female

**Illinois Range**

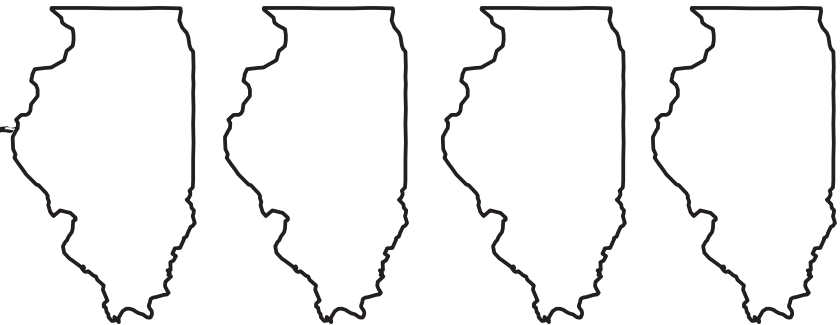
Color the appropriate areas on the map(s) for this species.

Migration

Breeding Range

Winter Range

Permanent Resident



*Passerina cyanea*

# indigo bunting

**What else should I know about it?** This bird is a common nocturnal migrant and nesting summer resident throughout Illinois. It spends the winter months from Central America to South America. Its song sounds like "sweet-sweet" or "chew-chew." The female may use a shed snake skin in the base of the nest.

**In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?**

Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic      Woodland      Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

**Fill Me In!** The male and female indigo bunting are different \_\_\_\_o\_\_\_\_o\_\_\_\_s.

**What color is it?** Male and female orchard orioles (6-7 inches) are different colors. The male is rust-red on the side and above the tail and black everywhere else. The female is olive-green on the upper body and yellow underneath.

female

**Where does it live?**

Open woods, orchards, fence rows and river banks are home to the orchard oriole.

male

**What does it eat?**

This bird eats insects and fruits.

**Illinois Range**

Color the appropriate areas on the map(s) for this species.

Migration

Breeding Range

Winter Range

Permanent Resident

*Icterus spurius*

# orchard oriole

**What else should I know about it?** The orchard oriole builds a nest of woven grasses. Its song is a series of whistles and notes. This species nests in Illinois and is a common migrant throughout the state. It may fly as far as northern South America to spend the winter.

**In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?**

Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic      Woodland      Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

**Fill Me In!** The orchard oriole uses its beak to make a hanging n \_\_\_\_ t of woven grasses.



male

*Melanerpes carolinus*

# red-bellied woodpecker

**What color is it?** The red-bellied woodpecker (9-10 inches in length) has black and white stripes on the back and wings. Its belly is light tan. The rump is white. The male has a red patch that extends from the bill over the head to the base of the neck. The female has a red patch on the back of the head only.

**Where does it live?** Forests, residential areas and parks are home to the red-bellied woodpecker.

**What does it eat?** This bird eats acorns, fruits and insects.

## Illinois Range

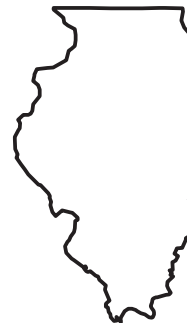
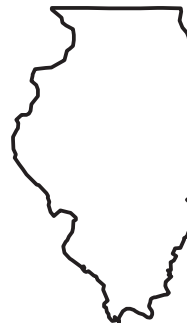
Color the appropriate areas on the map(s) for this species.

Migration

Breeding Range

Winter Range

Permanent Resident



**What else should I know about it?** The red-bellied woodpecker lives year-round throughout Illinois. It nests in a hollow limb, dead tree, nest box, wooden pole or other structure. This bird makes a "twirr," "churr" or "chir" sound.

## In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?

Circle the best answer or answers.

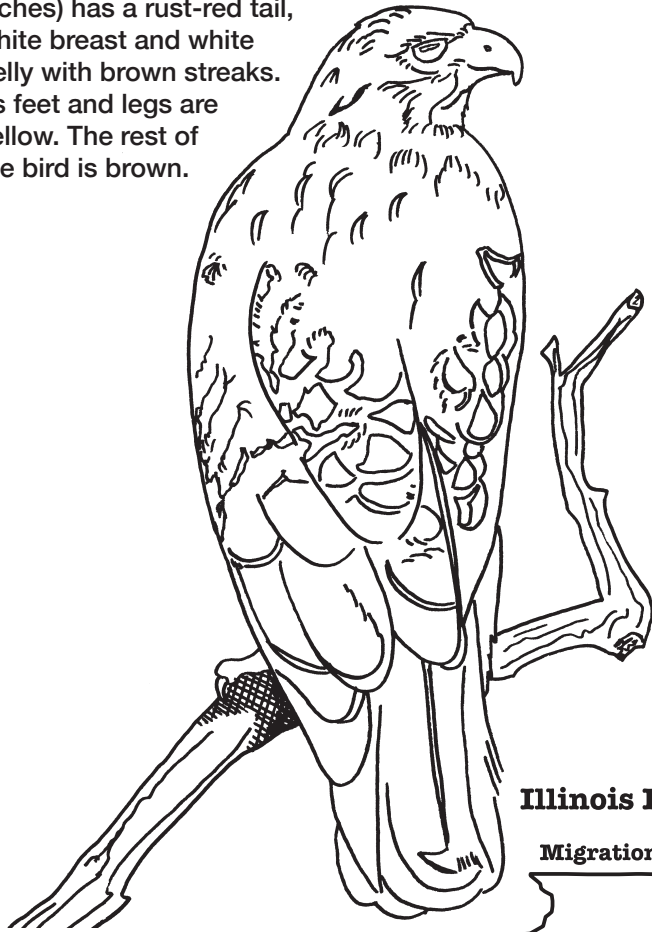
Aquatic      Woodland      Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

**Fill Me In!** The red-bellied woodpecker is a p\_\_\_\_ m\_\_\_\_ t resident of Illinois, meaning that it does not migrate.



### What color is it?

The red-tailed hawk (19-25 inches) has a rust-red tail, white breast and white belly with brown streaks. Its feet and legs are yellow. The rest of the bird is brown.



*Buteo jamaicensis*

# red-tailed hawk



**Where does it live?** This hawk lives in open country, woods and prairies.

**What does it eat?** It feeds on rabbits, squirrels, mice, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

### Illinois Range

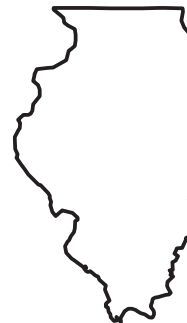
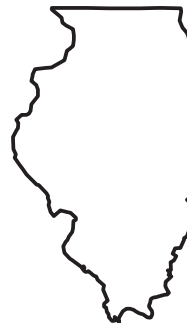
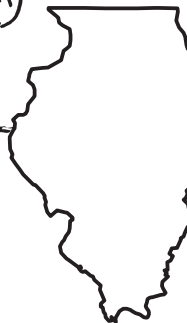
Color the appropriate areas on the map(s) for this species.

Migration

Breeding Range

Winter Range

Permanent Resident



**What else should I know about it?** Often seen perched on fence posts and poles along roadways, the red-tailed hawk hunts from these and other locations for its prey. Some of these birds live year-round in the state, while others migrate through or only live in Illinois during the winter or to nest in summer. Migration occurs during the day. Some of the birds spend the winter as far south as Central America. The red-tailed hawk builds its nest at least 35-90 feet above ground in a tree. The female does all of the incubating over the 28- to 32-day incubation period. The male brings food to her during this time. The call of this hawk sounds like "keeerrr."

### In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?

Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic    Woodland    Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

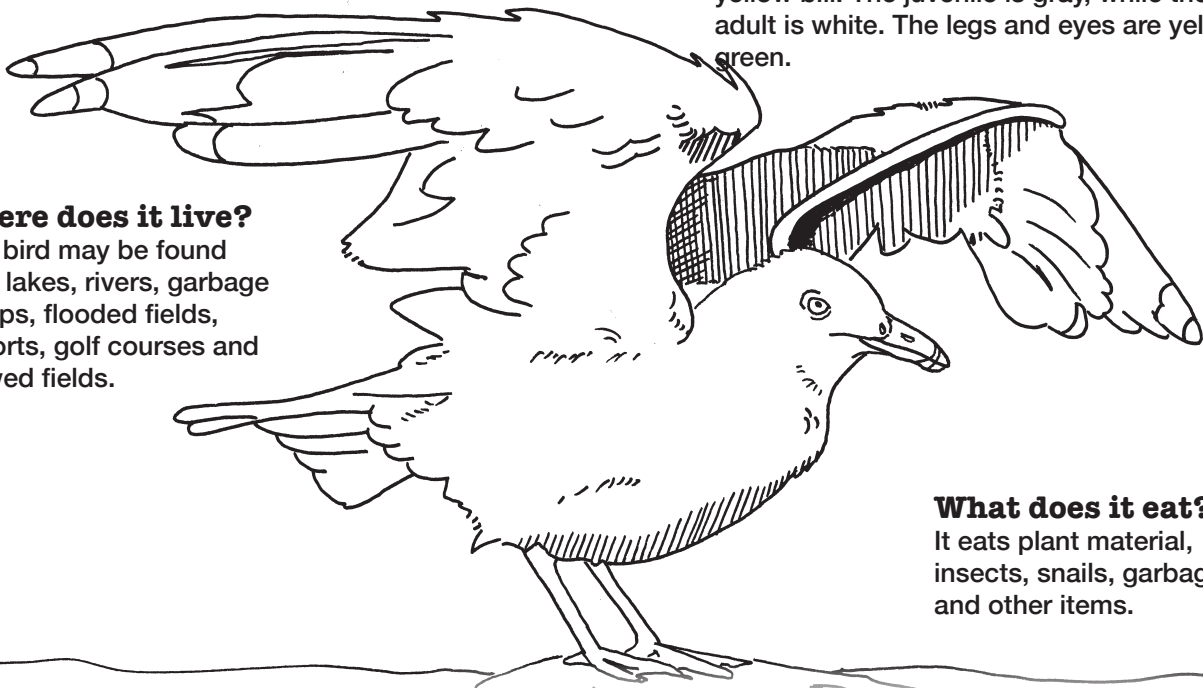
**Fill Me In!** The red-tailed hawk is commonly seen sitting on posts along \_\_\_\_oa\_\_\_\_.



**What color is it?** The ring-billed gull's (18-20 inches) name describes a black ring that can be seen around the tip of the yellow bill. The juvenile is gray, while the adult is white. The legs and eyes are yellow-green.

**Where does it live?**

This bird may be found near lakes, rivers, garbage dumps, flooded fields, airports, golf courses and plowed fields.



**What does it eat?**

It eats plant material, insects, snails, garbage and other items.

**Illinois Range**

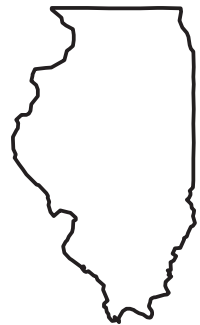
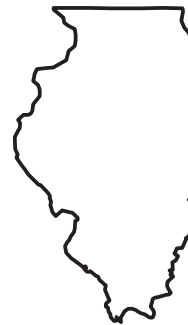
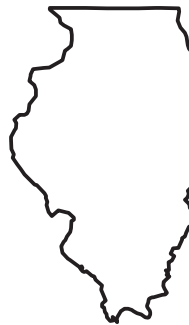
Color the appropriate areas on the map(s) for this species.

**Migration**

**Breeding Range**

**Winter Range**

**Permanent Resident**



*Larus delawarensis*

# ring-billed gull

**What else should I know about it?** Commonly seen in Illinois, some of these birds are winter residents, some nest here in the summer and others migrate throughout the state, traveling as far as Mexico and Cuba for the winter. The ring-billed gull roosts on water and flies out to feed in fields and other places. Its call is "kee-ow."

**In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?**

Circle the best answer or answers.

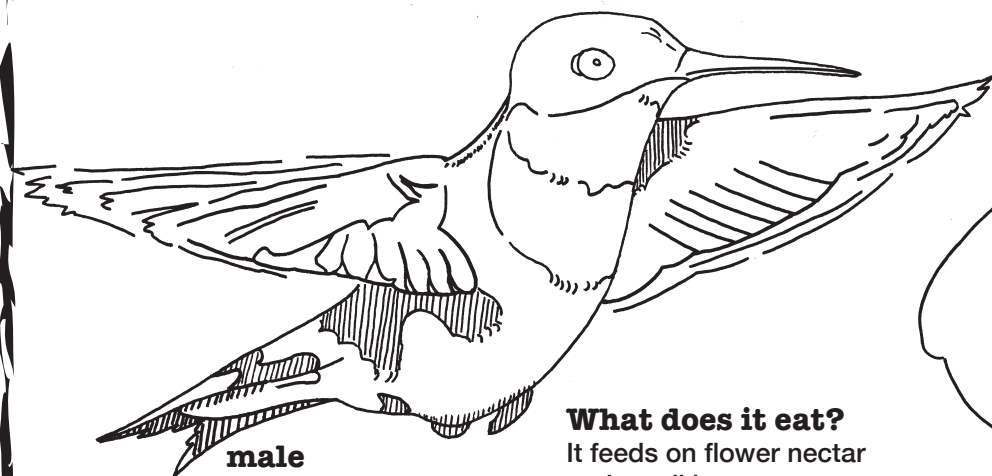
Aquatic      Woodland      Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

**Fill Me In!** The ring-billed gull frequents \_\_\_ar\_\_\_a\_\_\_e \_\_\_um\_\_\_s in its search for food.

**What color is it?** The male has an iridescent red throat, green upper body, white belly and breast and a forked tail. The female is similar in coloration except that she has white where the male is red, and the tip of her tail is blunt.

**Where does it live?**

The hummingbird lives in woodlands, edges of wooded areas, weedy areas and gardens.



**What does it eat?**

It feeds on flower nectar and small insects.



**Illinois Range**

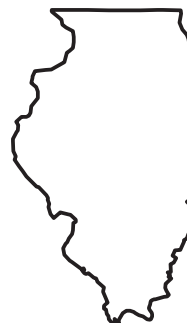
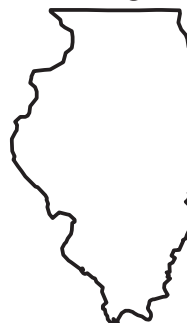
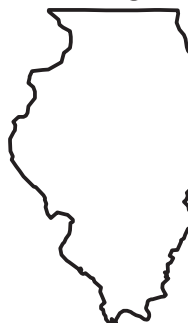
Color the appropriate areas on the map(s) for this species.

**Migration**

**Breeding Range**

**Winter Range**

**Permanent Resident**



*Archilochus colubris*

# **ruby-throated hummingbird**

**What else should I know about it?** At about 3-4 inches in length, the ruby-throated hummingbird is the smallest bird in eastern North America. Found throughout the state as a nesting and migrant species, it spends the winter months from Texas to Central America. This aggressive bird will attack its own species and other birds. The sound most often associated with a hummingbird is a "buzz" made by the fast movement of its wings.

**In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?**

Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic      Woodland      Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

**Fill Me In!** Ruby-throated hummingbirds are very \_\_\_g\_\_\_re\_\_\_ \_\_\_i\_\_\_e and will fight other birds.

**Where does it live?**

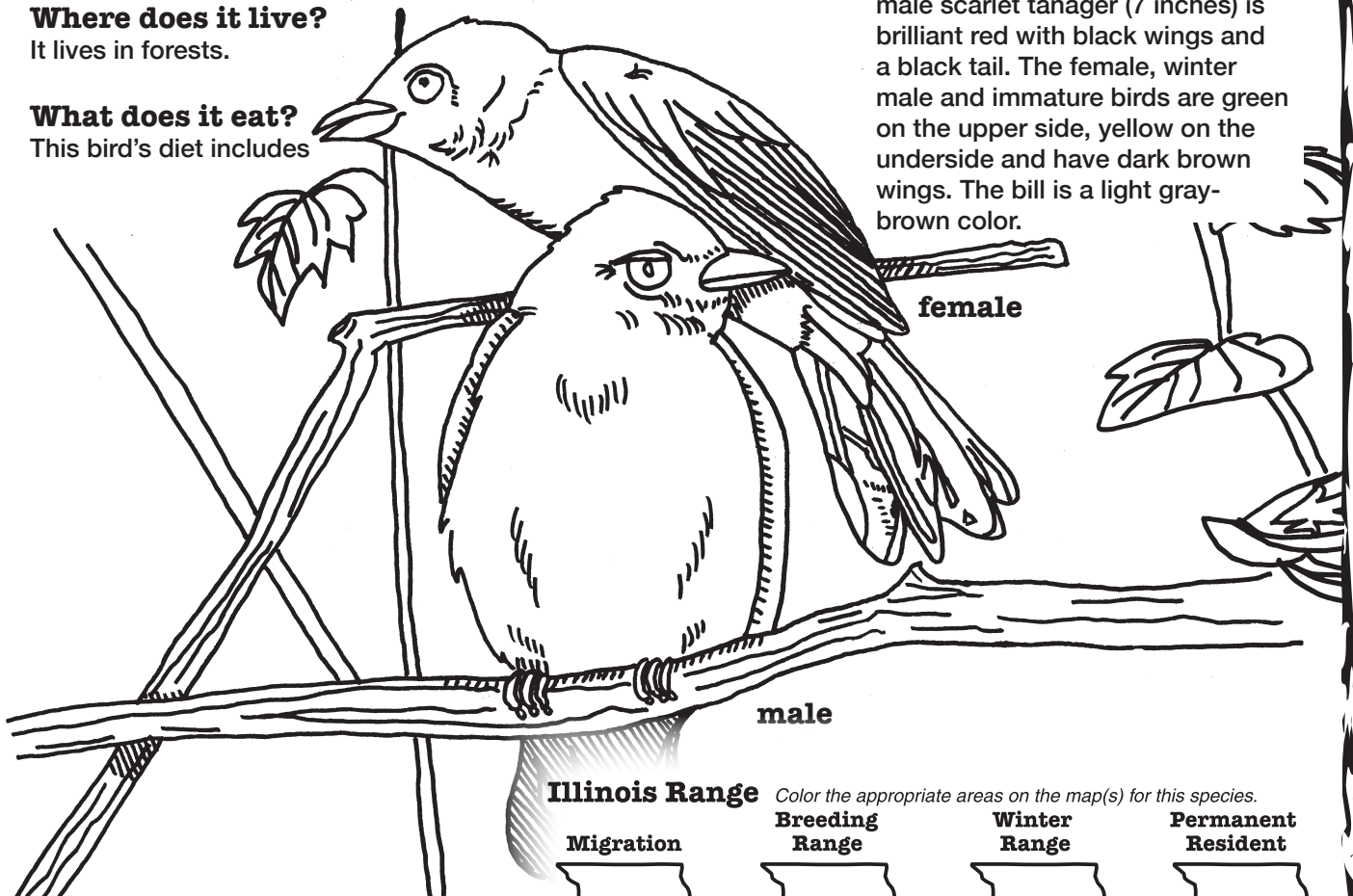
It lives in forests.

**What does it eat?**

This bird's diet includes

**What color is it?**

The male scarlet tanager (7 inches) is brilliant red with black wings and a black tail. The female, winter male and immature birds are green on the upper side, yellow on the underside and have dark brown wings. The bill is a light gray-brown color.



female

male

**Illinois Range**

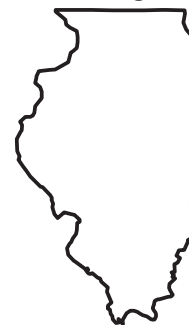
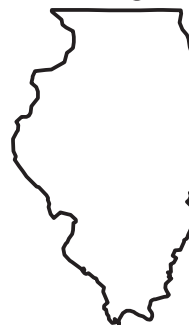
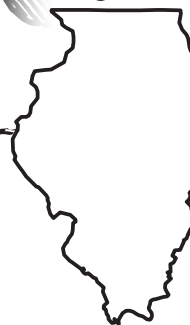
Color the appropriate areas on the map(s) for this species.

**Migration**

**Breeding Range**

**Winter Range**

**Permanent Resident**



*Piranga olivacea*

# scarlet tanager

**What else should I know about it?** The scarlet tanager is a statewide migrant and an uncommon summer nesting resident in the northern two-thirds of the state. It spends the winter months in South America. Its song is similar to the caroling song of the American robin (*Turdus migratorius*) but is more coarse and strained.

**In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?**

Circle the best answer or answers.

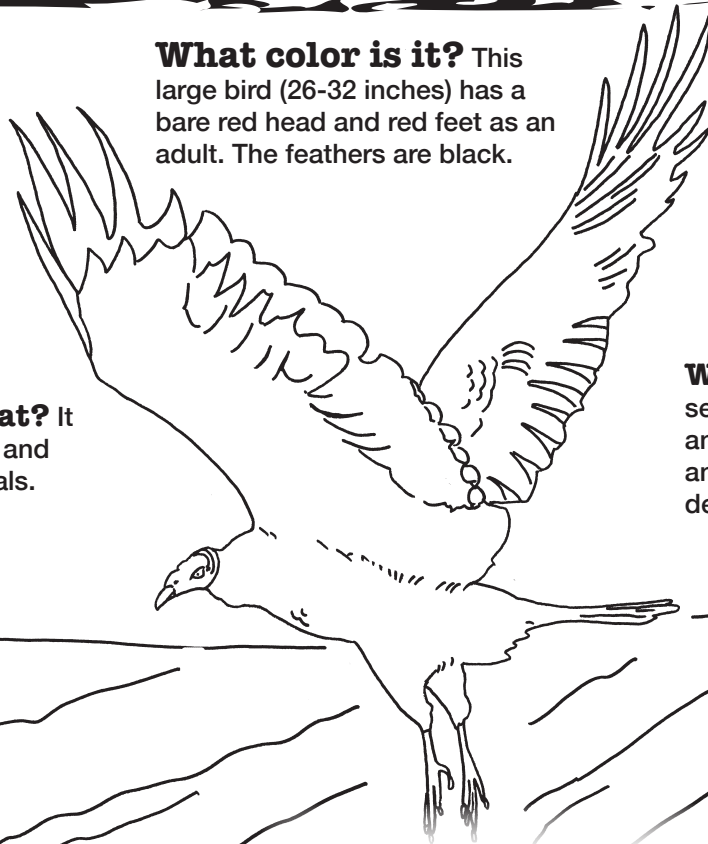
Aquatic      Woodland      Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

**Fill Me In!** The scarlet tanager may be seen in \_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_ s \_\_\_\_ as it migrates through Illinois.

**What color is it?** This large bird (26-32 inches) has a bare red head and red feet as an adult. The feathers are black.

**What does it eat?** It eats dead animals and some plant materials.

**Where does it live?** It searches open areas for food and is often found around bluffs and hills, where it perches in dead trees.



#### Illinois Range

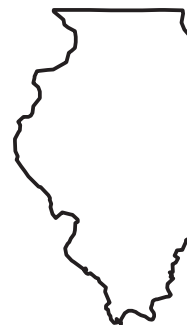
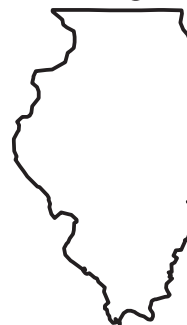
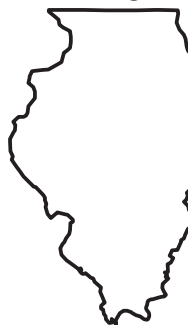
Color the appropriate areas on the map(s) for this species.

Migration

Breeding Range

Winter Range

Permanent Resident



*Cathartes aura*

## turkey vulture

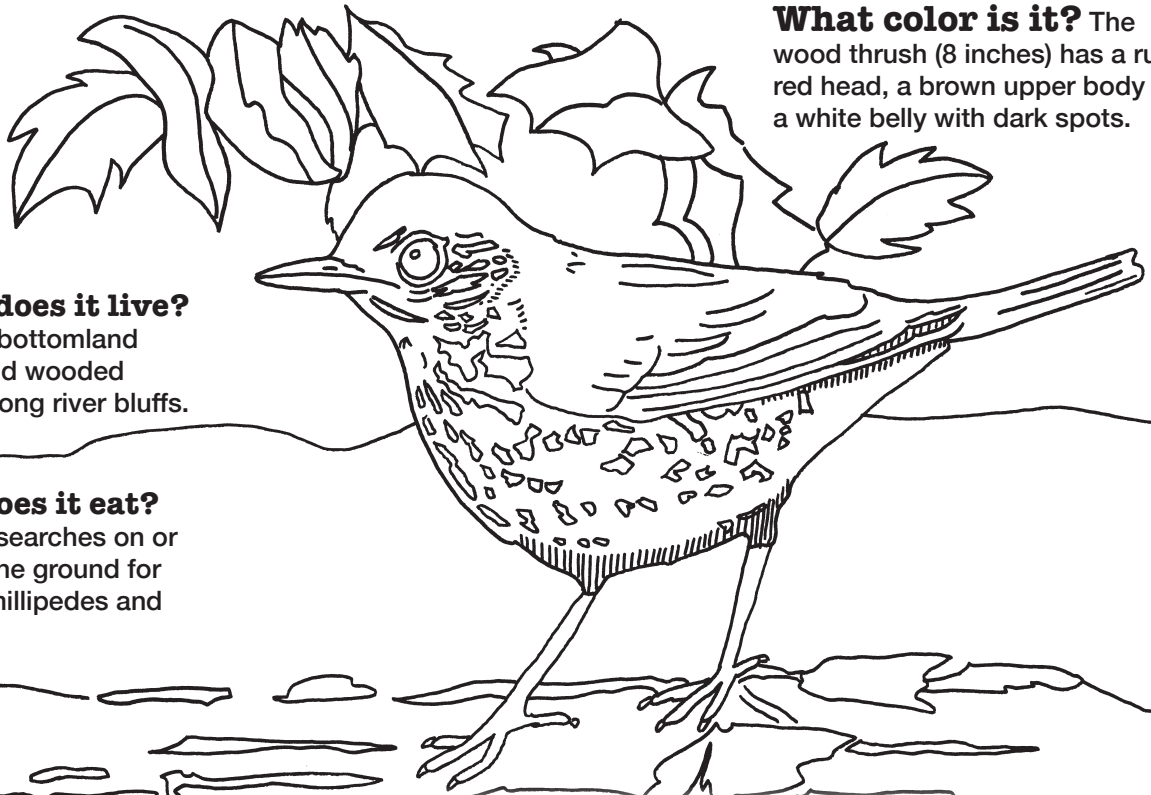
**What else should I know about it?** Soaring on its nearly six-foot wingspan, the turkey vulture can cover a wide area searching for carrion. It is a common migrant and nesting summer resident in Illinois and may spend the winter in the southern two-thirds of the state. Many of the birds travel to South America for the winter months, however. The turkey vulture uses vomiting as a defense mechanism.

### In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?

Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic      Woodland      Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

**Fill Me In!** The turkey vulture feeds mainly on dead animals, or   a     r     i     n  .



**What color is it?** The wood thrush (8 inches) has a rust-red head, a brown upper body and a white belly with dark spots.

**Where does it live?**

It lives in bottomland woods and wooded ravines along river bluffs.

**What does it eat?**

This bird searches on or close to the ground for insects, millipedes and fruits.

**Illinois Range**

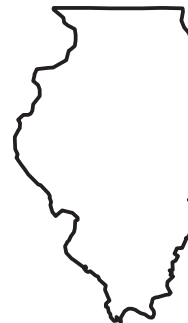
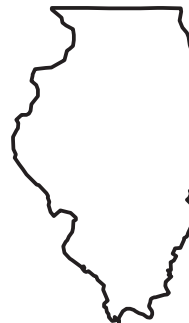
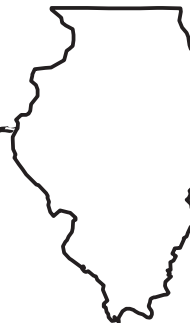
Color the appropriate areas on the map(s) for this species.

Migration

Breeding Range

Winter Range

Permanent Resident



*Hylocichla mustelina*

# wood thrush

**What else should I know about it?** The wood thrush is a common migrant throughout Illinois on its route to and from its wintering grounds from Texas to South America. It is a summer nesting resident in Illinois. The wood thrush makes a beautiful, flutelike song.

**In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?**

Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic      Woodland      Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

**Fill Me In!** The beautiful song of the wood thrush sounds like a f\_\_\_ t\_\_\_ playing in the forest.

### What color is it?

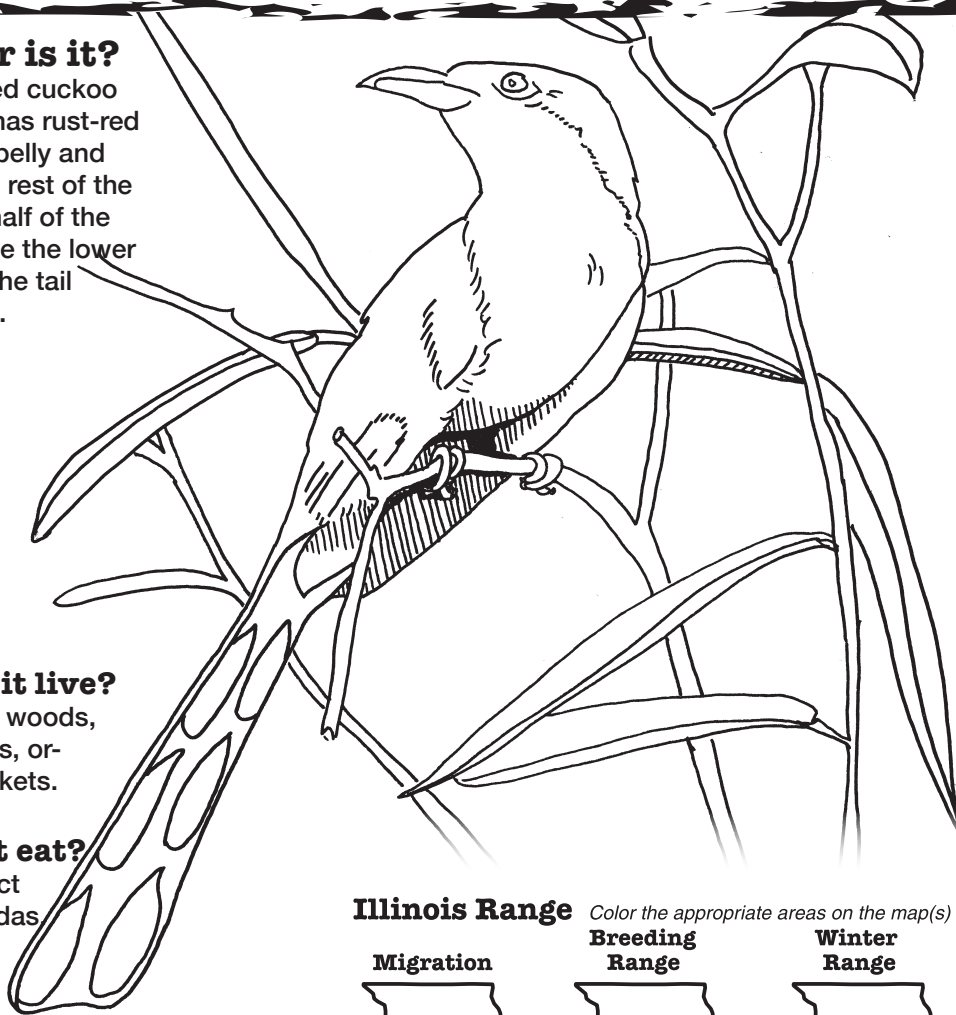
The yellow-billed cuckoo (11-13 inches) has rust-red wings, a white belly and is brown on the rest of the body. The top half of the bill is dark, while the lower half is yellow. The tail spots are white.

### Where does it live?

It inhabits open woods, woodland edges, orchards and thickets.

### What does it eat?

It feeds on insect larvae and cicadas.



### Illinois Range

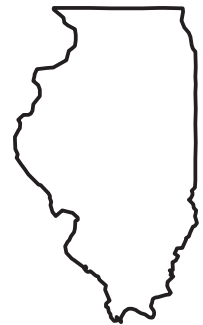
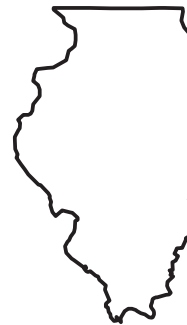
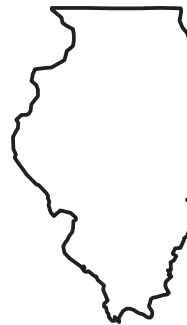
Color the appropriate areas on the map(s) for this species.

#### Migration

#### Breeding Range

#### Winter Range

#### Permanent Resident



*Coccyzus americanus*

## yellow-billed cuckoo

**What else should I know about it?** The yellow-billed cuckoo is a common migrant and nesting summer resident in Illinois, wintering in South America. The song is a series of "ka" notes which get slower and longer at the end, sounding like "kowlp." It is sometimes called the "rain crow," because some people believe that its song predicts rain.

### In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?

Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic      Woodland      Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

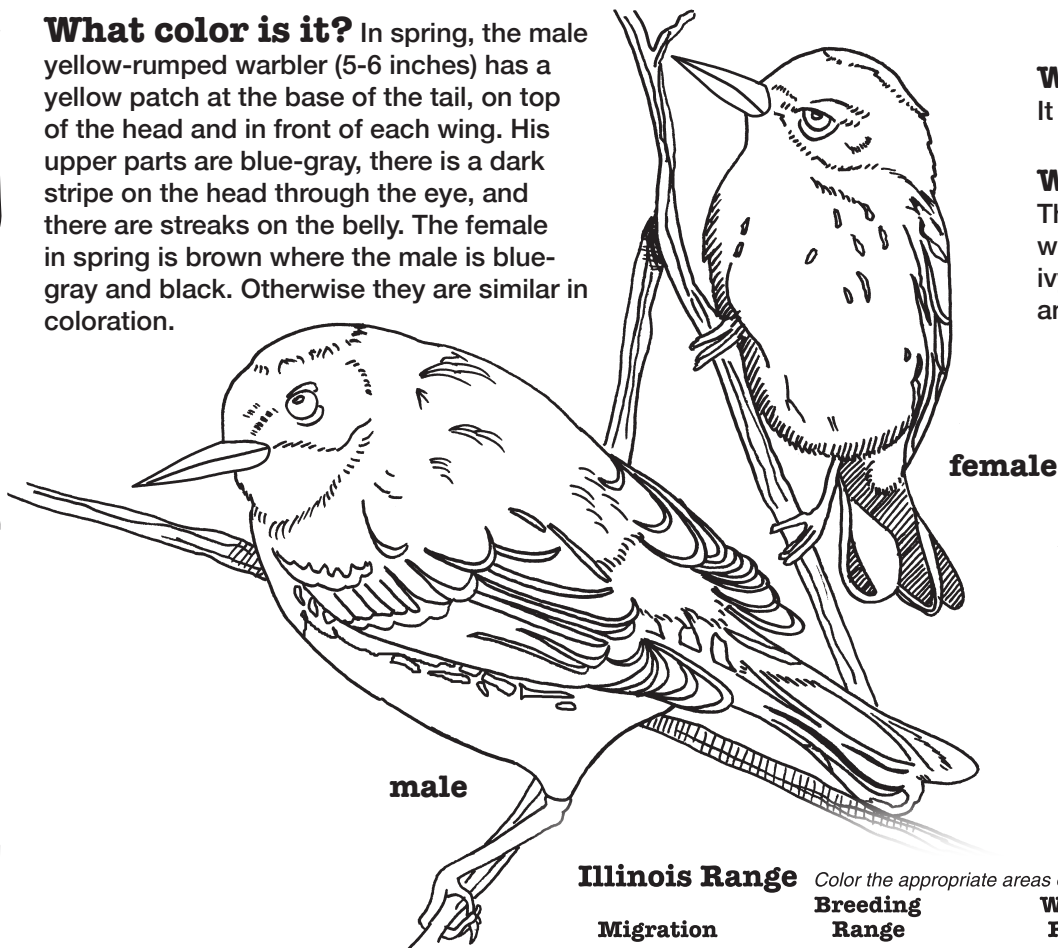
**Fill Me In!** The yellow-billed cuckoo flies to \_\_\_ou\_\_\_h \_\_\_me\_\_\_c\_\_\_ to spend the months when it is fall and winter in Illinois.



**What color is it?** In spring, the male yellow-rumped warbler (5-6 inches) has a yellow patch at the base of the tail, on top of the head and in front of each wing. His upper parts are blue-gray, there is a dark stripe on the head through the eye, and there are streaks on the belly. The female in spring is brown where the male is blue-gray and black. Otherwise they are similar in coloration.

**Where does it live?**  
It lives in forests.

**What does it eat?**  
The yellow-rumped warbler feeds on poison ivy berries, cedar berries and insects.



*Dendroica coronata*

## yellow-rumped warbler

### Illinois Range

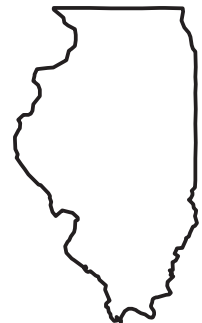
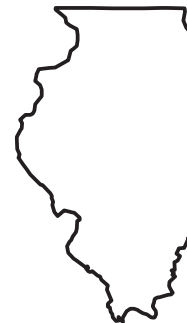
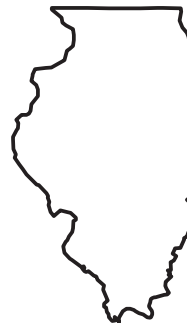
Color the appropriate areas on the map(s) for this species.

Migration

Breeding Range

Winter Range

Permanent Resident



**What else should I know about it?** This bird is a common daytime and nocturnal migrant throughout Illinois. It is an uncommon winter resident, with most of the birds traveling south as far as Central America. It does not nest in the state. The yellow-rumped warbler's song is a trill.

### In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?

Circle the best answer or answers.

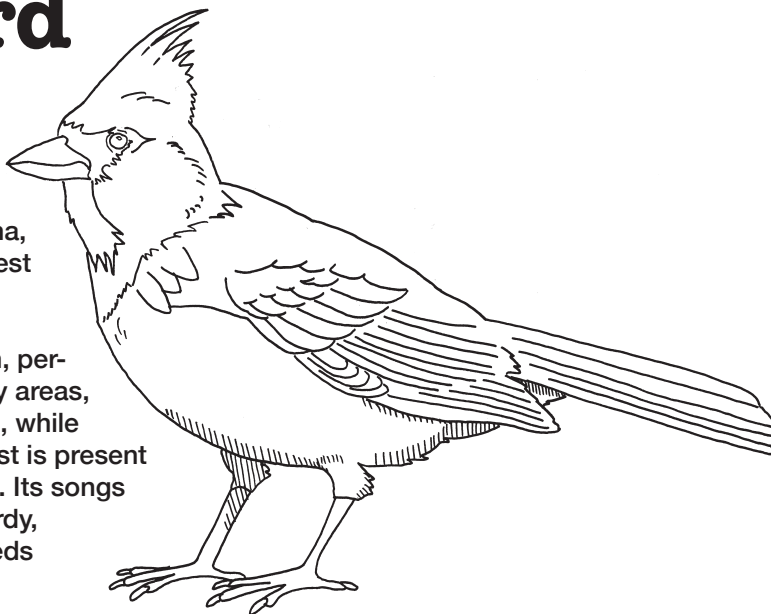
Aquatic      Woodland      Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

**Fill Me In!** One of the foods of the yellow-rumped warbler is \_\_\_oi\_\_\_o\_\_\_ i\_\_\_y berries.

# Our State Bird

In 1928, Illinois schoolchildren selected the northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) as the State Bird of Illinois. The General Assembly made that designation official in 1929. The northern cardinal is also the state bird of Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia.

The northern cardinal (7-9 inches) is a common, permanent resident of woodlands, thickets, brushy areas, residential areas and parks. The male is scarlet, while the female is buff-brown and red. A feather crest is present on the head, and these birds have a thick beak. Its songs sound like "what-cheer cheer cheer," "birdy, birdy, birdy" or "whoit, whoit, whoit." The cardinal feeds on insects, grains, fruits and seeds.



## Cardinal Clues

Find and circle these cardinal-related words in the puzzle below.

bird  
nois  
permanent  
land

beak  
scarlet

cardinal  
symbol

crest  
thicket

Illi-  
wood-

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | L | A | N | I | D | R | A | C |
| T | E | L | R | A | C | S | W | E |
| A | T | R | D | E | H | J | O | T |
| B | S | Y | M | B | O | L | O | E |
| B | E | A | K | A | I | L | D | K |
| C | R | M | N | K | N | M | L | C |
| F | C | P | I | O | S | E | A | I |
| O | A | T | U | B | W | Y | N | H |
| R | V | X | Z | B | I | R | D | T |
| S | I | O | N | I | L | L | I | Q |

# Glossary

**calcium carbonate** a white compound (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) found in bones, teeth and shells

**gizzard** a muscular portion of the digestive tract in birds, it has thick walls and is used to grind food

**incubation** to sit on eggs, keeping them warm until they hatch

**metabolism** (metabolic rate) chemical changes that provide the energy required for life; amount of food consumed, heat produced or oxygen used; speed at which these changes occur is the metabolic rate

**preening** to clean, straighten and fluff feathers

**warm-blooded** maintaining a constant internal body temperature regardless of external conditions

## Who Am I?

Now that you've studied the information in this booklet, let's see what you've learned. Can you identify the bird that goes with the description?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. rust-red head, white belly with dark spots and flutelike song
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. an aggressive, very small bird with a green upper body and white belly
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. black or brown upper body, white lower body, rust-red sides
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. black and white stripes on the back and wings and a red head patch
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. mainly maroon, gray and green with yellow-green legs
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. bright blue or plain brown with a song of "sweet sweet"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. rust-red tail and call of "keeerrr"

## Answers

### In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?

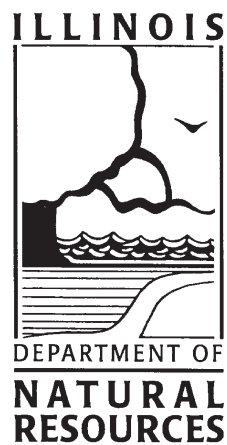
page 4 - aquatic; page 5 - aquatic; page 6 - grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 7 - grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 8 - grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 9 - woodland and grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 10 - aquatic; page 11 - grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 12 - woodland and grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 13 - woodland and grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 14 - woodland and grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 15 - aquatic and grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 16 - woodland and grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 17 - woodland; page 18 - grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 19 - woodland; page 20 - woodland and grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 21 - woodland

### Fill Me In!

poison ivy  
page 16 - aggressive; page 17 - forests; page 18 - carrion; page 19 - flute; page 20 - South America; page 21 - wading; page 11 - colors; page 12 - nest; page 13 - permanent; page 14 - roads; page 15 - garbage dumps; page 4 - migratory; page 5 - diving; page 6 - urban; page 7 - white; page 8 - grasses; page 9 - scratch; page 10

### Who Am I?

1 - wood thrush; 2 - ruby-throated hummingbird; 3 - eastern towhee; 4 - red-bellied woodpecker; 5 - green heron; 6 - indigo bunting; 7 - red-tailed hawk



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**Division of Education**

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