

## American tree sparrow *Spizelloides arborea*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Passerellidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

### FEATURES

The American tree sparrow is about six inches in length (tail tip to bill tip in preserved specimen). This small bird has a single, dark spot on the breast and a red-brown cap. The bill is dark above and yellow below. Two, white wing bars are present.

### BEHAVIORS

The American tree sparrow is a common migrant and winter resident of Illinois. It breeds in the northern Arctic. Fall migrants begin arriving in Illinois in late October each year. The Illinois habitat of this species includes weedy fields, fence rows, woodland edges, thickets and grain fields. This bird moves in small or large flocks. Its song opens on one or two high notes and is variable. The American tree sparrow eats seeds, insects and small fruits.

### HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

**bottomland forests**

Woodland Habitats

**bottomland forests; coniferous forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests**

Prairie and Edge Habitats

**black soil prairie; dolomite prairie; edge; gravel prairie; hill prairie; sand prairie; shrub prairie**

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