

# black-bellied plover

*Pluvialis squatarola*

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Charadriidae

## ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

## FEATURES

The black-bellied plover is 11 and one-half inches long (bill tip to tail tip in preserved specimen).

Breeding individuals of this species have black feathers on their face and breast and dark-gray feathers speckled with white on their back.

Nonbreeding adults and immatures have gray-brown feathers. All black-bellied plovers, no matter what stage the plumage, show black at the base of the wings when seen from the underside. White rump feathers and white tail feathers are also present.

## BEHAVIORS

This shorebird moves in short dashes and stops. It eats small invertebrates and some plant materials. It can be seen on mudflats, marshes, beaches and areas of short grasses when migrating. It nests in the Arctic tundra. The black-bellied plover is common in Illinois only along Lake Michigan. It may be seen in fields if large pools of water are present. It winters on both coasts of the United States south to South America.

## ILLINOIS RANGE



© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2020. *Biodiversity of Illinois*.

Unless otherwise noted, photos and images © Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

© David W. Brewer





## **Aquatic Habitats**

Lake Michigan

## **Woodland Habitats**

none

## **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

edge