

Eurasian tree sparrow *Passer montanus*

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Passerellidae

ILLINOIS STATUS: common, nonnative

FEATURES

The Eurasian tree sparrow is about six inches in length. The male and female of this species resemble the male house sparrow, but they have a smaller patch of black on the throat, a brown crown and a black patch on each side of the head.

BEHAVIORS

The Eurasian tree sparrow is found along the Mississippi River north from St. Louis to Rock Island and along the lower half of the Illinois River. It is a permanent resident of west central Illinois. European tree sparrows do not migrate. Pastures, weedy fields, wooded parks and urban areas are the habitats where this species can be found. It feeds on insects and seeds.

Aquatic Habitats: marshes

Woodland Habitats: none

Prairie and Edge Habitats: black soil prairie; dolomite prairie; edge; gravel prairie; hill prairie; sand prairie; shrub prairie

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