

## golden-winged warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Parulidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

### FEATURES

The golden-winged warbler is about four and three-fourths inches long (tail tip to bill tip in preserved specimen). Like all warblers, it has a thin bill. Both the male and female have gold wing bars, gray back feathers and white belly feathers. The male has black facial and throat feathers while the female has gray feathers in the same locations.

### BEHAVIORS

This species is a common migrant through the state and a rare summer resident in northern Illinois. It is possible that a few of these birds nest in the state, but most golden-winged warblers travel farther north to do so. Spring migrants begin arriving in April, while fall migrants reach Illinois starting in August. The golden-winged warbler winters from Mexico south to northern South America. This species eats insects and fruits.

### HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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