

# gray-cheeked thrush

*Catharus minimus*

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Chordata  
Class: Aves  
Order: Passeriformes  
Family: Turdidae

## ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

## FEATURES

The gray-cheeked thrush is about seven to seven and one-fourth inches long (tail tip to bill tip in preserved specimen). It has gray-brown feathers on the upper side of the body. Its cheek feathers are dark gray, and there is a gray eye ring. The breast feathers are mainly white with dark spots.

## BEHAVIORS

This species nests much further north than Illinois. These birds eat insects, insect larvae, fruits and mollusks. They are nocturnal migrants. Spring migrants begin arriving in Illinois in mid-April. Fall migrants start returning in mid-August. Gray-cheeked thrushes overwinter in Central and South America.

## ILLINOIS RANGE



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**Aquatic Habitats**

bottomland forests

**Woodland Habitat**

bottomland forests; coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

**Prairie and Edge Habitats**

edge