

## gray-cheeked thrush *Catharus minimus*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/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.

### HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

**bottomland forests**

Woodland Habitat

**bottomland forests; coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests**

Prairie and Edge Habitats

**edge**

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