

## loggerhead shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Laniidae

ILLINOIS STATUS endangered, native

### FEATURES

The loggerhead shrike is about nine inches long. It has a downward-pointing hook at the tip of the upper section of the bill. Its feathers are mainly gray with black wings, a black tail, a white patch on each wing, white under the beak and a black mask through and below the eye.

### BEHAVIORS

The loggerhead shrike lives in open areas, where it can be seen on wires, at the top of small trees and on other perches. This species eats insects, small birds, small rodents and other small animals that it catches and impales on thorns or barbed wire. Shrikes nest in trees of open areas, too, such as cedars, locusts and Osage orange. Those loggerhead shrikes that migrate through Illinois do so in spring starting in late February. It is thought that fall migration begins in July or August. The decline of this species is believed to be due to the loss of habitat (hedgerows and pastures) and pesticide use on insects.

### HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge

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