

marsh wren *Cistothorus palustris*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Troglodytidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The marsh wren is about five inches long (tail tip to bill tip in preserved specimen). Males are larger than females. There is a white stripe over the eye and white stripes on the upper back. The feathers on the upper side of the body are generally red-brown.

BEHAVIORS

Marsh wrens eat insects and their larvae. Spring migrants begin arriving in Illinois in April. Some of these birds nest in Illinois, mainly in the northern one-third of the state. The male builds several nests, but the female builds the nest into which she lays eggs. The nest is usually placed in cattails over water. There are four to six eggs per clutch, and more than one brood is produced per year. Fall migrants begin arriving in late August. This species overwinters from the southern United States to Central America.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

marshes

Woodland Habitat

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge

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