

northern waterthrush

Parkesia noveboracensis

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

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

FEATURES

The northern waterthrush is about five and three-fourths inches in length. Its back and head feathers are brown, and a light eye stripe is present. The throat, breast and belly feathers show stripes. The basic color of the eye stripe and feathers on the underside varies from white to light yellow.

BEHAVIORS

The northern waterthrush is a common migrant in Illinois. It can be seen teetering as it walks along the edge of a body of water. Its habitats include swamps, wet woodlands, pond shores and stream banks. It feeds mainly on insects. This species winters in Mexico, Central America, northern South America and the West Indies. The closest nesting location to Illinois is in Wisconsin. Spring migrants begin arriving in Illinois in April. Fall migrants have been observed in the state as early as late July.

ILLINOIS RANGE



© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2020. *Biodiversity of Illinois*.

Unless otherwise noted, photos and images © Illinois Department of Natural Resources.







Aquatic Habitats

marshes; peatlands; rivers and streams; swamps; lakes, ponds and reservoirs

Woodland Habitats

southern Illinois lowlands

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none