

palm warbler *Setophaga palmarum*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Parulidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The palm warbler is about five and one-fourth inches long (tail tip to bill tip in preserved specimen). The corners of its tail show white spots. The rump has green-yellow feathers. A white line above the eye is present. There are yellow feathers under the tail and green-brown back feathers. Both sexes show a rust-red head when breeding.

BEHAVIORS

This species is a very rare winter resident in northern Illinois. It wags its tail and spends most of its time near or close to the ground. It nests in Canada. Spring migrants begin arriving in Illinois in late April. Fall migrants start appearing in the state in August. The palm warbler overwinters in the states along the Gulf of Mexico and south to Central America and the Caribbean islands. It eats insects and fruits.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge

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