

ruby-crowned kinglet *Regulus calendula*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Regulidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The ruby-crowned kinglet averages about four and one-fourth inches long (tail tip to bill tip in preserved specimen). It has gray-green feathers on its back and tail. There are two, white wing bars per wing, and the bottom one is edged by a black bar. A white ring is present around most of the eye. The male has a red-feathered patch on the top of the head that is not always visible.

BEHAVIORS

Ruby-crowned kinglets nest from Alaska through north-central Wisconsin. They begin arriving in Illinois in late March. Fall migrants begin returning to the state in September. The species overwinters as far south as Central America. Insects and their larvae make up the diet.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitat

coniferous woodlands; upland deciduous woodlands

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge

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