

# rusty turnstone

## *Arenaria interpres*

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Chordata  
Class: Aves  
Order: Charadriiformes  
Family: Scolopacidae

### ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

### FEATURES

The rusty turnstone has rust-colored feathers on the wings and back interspersed with black and white. The tail is white with a black band at the tip. Juveniles and nonbreeding adults have red-brown feathers on the back and are much duller than the breeding coloration. The legs are orange.

### BEHAVIORS

The rusty turnstone is a common migrant along Lake Michigan and is occasionally seen migrating in other parts of the state. Spring migrants begin arriving in April and peak in late May. The species breeds in the Arctic tundra. Southbound migrants start arriving in July and peak in late August. They overwinter from the coastal United States to South America. The rusty turnstone is seen at mudflats, beaches, rocky shores and the Lake Michigan shoreline. It feeds on small invertebrates.

### ILLINOIS RANGE



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### **Aquatic Habitats**

Lake Michigan; temporary water supplies

### **Woodland Habitats**

none

### **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

none