

Swainson's thrush *Catharus ustulatus*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Turdidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Swainson's thrush is about seven inches long. It has a buff-colored ring around the eye. This same coloration can be seen on the cheek and breast feathers. The back and head have olive-brown feathers. The breast feathers have dark spots.

BEHAVIORS

Swainson's thrush is a common migrant through the state. It feeds on insects, other small invertebrates and fruits. Its closest nesting location to Illinois is in northern Wisconsin. This species winters from Mexico to South America. Spring migrants start arriving in mid-April. Fall migrants begin appearing in mid-August.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; coniferous forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie Habitats

none

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