

warbling vireo *Vireo gilvus*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Vireonidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The warbling vireo is five and one-half inches in length. It does not have wing bars. The breast feathers are white, and there is a white stripe above the eye. The eye stripe does not have black borders. The back feathers are green-gray.

BEHAVIORS

The warbling vireo is a common migrant and a common summer resident statewide. It lives in open woods and is usually seen around streams, ponds and lakes. This species feeds mainly on insects but may also take fruits. Its nest is built high in a tree and is the shape of a hanging cup. Three to five eggs make up a clutch. The warbling vireo winters in Mexico and Central America. Spring migrants begin arriving in Illinois in April. Fall migrants start appearing in early September.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests; rivers and streams; swamps; lakes, ponds and reservoirs

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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