

willet

Tringa semipalmata

FEATURES

The blue-gray legs and stout bill are distinctive characters of the willet. It has a basic gray coloration with some dark marks on the breast and belly feathers in breeding plumage. The wings show large black and white areas in flight. It is about 15-16 inches long (tail tip to bill tip in preserved specimen).

BEHAVIORS

Spring migrants begin arriving in April. Willets breed along the Atlantic coastline of the United States and Canada as well as in portions of the western United States and west-central Canada. Southbound migrants begin moving through the state in late June. The species overwinters from the coastal southern United States to South America. Mudflats, flooded fields, beaches, sandbars and short, grassy areas associated with water are the favored habitats. It eats small invertebrates.

TAXONOMY

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

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

ILLINOIS RANGE



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winter plumage

Aquatic Habitats

marshes; temporary water supplies; rivers and streams; wet prairies and fens; lakes, ponds and reservoirs; Lake Michigan

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none