

## worm-eating warbler *Helmitheros vermivorum*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Parulidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

### FEATURES

The worm-eating warbler averages about five to five and one-half inches in length. It has dull, olive-green feathers and black stripes on its buff-colored head. The breast feathers are brown.

### BEHAVIORS

The worm-eating warbler lives in dry, wooded slopes. It breeds in all except the northeastern one-fourth of Illinois. In winter it lives in the West Indies and central America. During spring migration this bird begins arriving in Illinois in April. Its song is a buzzing sound. The nest is built on the ground, usually under vegetation. This nest of dead leaves is lined with mosses and hair. Three to six white eggs with brown markings are deposited. The female alone incubates for the 13-day incubation period. Fall migration out of Illinois begins in September. The worm-eating warbler feeds near or on the ground, eating insects.

### HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

**upland deciduous forests**

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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