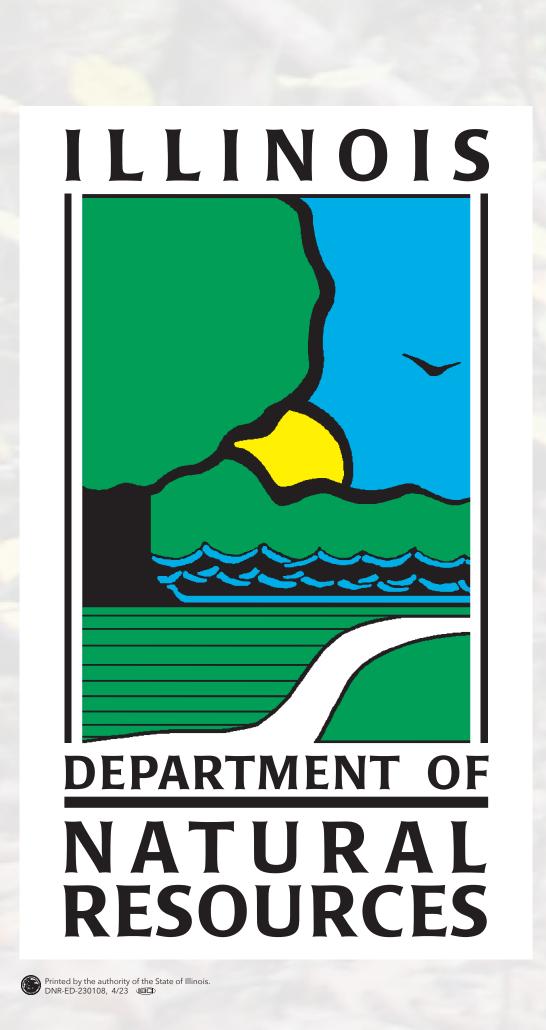
Female Wood-Warblers

Dimorphism - What is It? Have you ever heard people talk about the difference in color or appearance between a males and females of the same animal species? When you have observable difference between males and females of the same species, that is dimorphism and it's common in birds. This can be markings, color, size, weight and behavior.

For some birds, the female's colors are like the male, but the colors are muted. Baltimore orioles (*Icterus galbula*) are an exaple. In others, there is a significant difference in color between the male and female. Think of the mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) where the female is brown and the male has the blue, green, gray, white, and black. Some males and females of the same bird species have been mistaken as two very different species because they look remarkably different.

These female wood warblers are all dimorphic from their male counterparts.





Prothonotary Warbler (Protonotaria citrea)

Mourning Warbler (Geothlypis philadelphia)







