

gray-cheeked thrush

Catharus minimus

FEATURES

The gray-cheeked thrush is about seven to seven and one-fourth inches long (tail tip to bill tip in preserved specimen). It has gray-brown feathers on the upper side of the body. Its cheek feathers are dark gray, and there is a gray eye ring. The breast feathers are mainly white with dark spots.

BEHAVIORS

This species nests much further north than Illinois. These birds eat insects, insect larvae, fruits and mollusks. They are nocturnal migrants. Spring migrants begin arriving in Illinois in mid-April. Fall migrants start returning in mid-August. Gray-cheeked thrushes overwinter in Central and South America.

TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Turdidae

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

ILLINOIS RANGE





Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitat

bottomland forests; coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge