

Illinois Wood-warblers



Migration

Wood-warblers are considered the butterflies of the bird world. Their beautiful spring colors are on full display when they migrate in the spring. Warblers are fall and spring migrators. In the fall, their colors are drab and so the migration is not noticed as much. They migrate from the temperate forest which is most of the United State, to the tropics of Central and South America. Why? It's about their food source, insects. In the northern temperate regions, as it gets colder, insects are not out and available. To survive, the warblers need to fly to warmer areas to find food. Some warblers migrate through the state while others stay and nest.

Recent research, using bird banding records, shows that wood-warblers are migrating north in the spring much earlier than 50 years ago. While it may not seem like much, this change could put the timing of the food they eat and their normal migration time at odds. The fall migration time is lengthening. Scientists are unclear how this might impact the warblers and more research is needed.