

# Birds of Illinois

The scientific name for each wild bird species found in Illinois can be obtained from this list. Bird species that are extinct or extirpated from Illinois are not included. Other species of birds referenced in the text will have their scientific name listed following their common name.

## Family Anatidae

fulvous whistling-duck  
black-bellied whistling duck  
greater white-fronted goose  
snow goose  
Ross's goose  
Canada goose  
brant  
cackling goose  
mute swan  
trumpeter swan  
tundra swan  
wood duck  
gadwall  
Eurasian wigeon  
American wigeon  
American black duck  
mallard  
mottled duck  
blue-winged teal  
cinnamon teal  
northern shoveler  
white-cheeked pintail  
northern pintail  
garganey  
green-winged teal  
canvasback  
redhead  
ring-necked duck  
tufted duck  
greater scaup  
lesser scaup  
king eider  
common eider  
harlequin duck  
surf scoter  
white-winged scoter  
black scoter  
long-tailed duck  
bufflehead  
common goldeneye  
Barrow's goldeneye  
hooded merganser  
common merganser  
red-breasted merganser  
ruddy duck

*Dendrocygna bicolor*  
*Dendrocygna autumnalis*  
*Anser albifrons*  
*Chen caerulescens*  
*Chen rossii*  
*Branta canadensis*  
*Branta bernicla*  
*Branta hutchinsii*  
*Cygnus olor*  
*Cygnus buccinator*  
*Cygnus columbianus*  
*Aix sponsa*  
*Anas strepera*  
*Anas penelope*  
*Anas americana*  
*Anas rubripes*  
*Anas platyrhynchos*  
*Anas fulvigula*  
*Anas discors*  
*Anas cyanoptera*  
*Anas clypeata*  
*Anas bahamensis*  
*Anas acuta*  
*Anas querquedula*  
*Anas crecca*  
*Aythya valisineria*  
*Aythya americana*  
*Aythya collaris*  
*Aythya fuligula*  
*Aythya marila*  
*Aythya affinis*  
*Somateria spectabilis*  
*Somateria mollissima*  
*Histrionicus histrionicus*  
*Melanitta perspicillata*  
*Melanitta fusca*  
*Melanitta americana*  
*Clangula hyemalis*  
*Bucephala albeola*  
*Bucephala clangula*  
*Bucephala islandica*  
*Lophodytes cucullatus*  
*Mergus merganser*  
*Mergus serrator*  
*Oxyura jamaicensis*

## Family Odontophoridae

northern bobwhite

*Colinus virginianus*

## Family Phasianidae

gray partridge  
ring-necked pheasant  
ruffed grouse  
greater prairie-chicken  
wild turkey

*Perdix perdix*  
*Phasianus colchicus*  
*Bonasa umbellus*  
*Tympanuchus cupido*  
*Meleagris gallopavo*

## Family Gaviidae

red-throated loon  
Arctic loon  
Pacific loon  
common loon  
yellow-billed loon

*Gavia stellata*  
*Gavia arctica*  
*Gavia pacifica*  
*Gavia immer*  
*Gavia adamsii*

## Family Podicipedidae

pied-billed grebe  
horned grebe  
red-necked grebe  
eared grebe  
western grebe  
Clark's grebe

*Podilymbus podiceps*  
*Podiceps auritus*  
*Podiceps grisegena*  
*Podiceps nigricollis*  
*Aechmophorus occidentalis*  
*Aechmophorus clarkii*

## Family Ciconiidae

wood stork

*Mycteria americana*

## Family Fregatidae

magnificent frigatebird

*Fregata magnificens*

## Family Sulidae

northern gannet

*Morus bassanus*

## Family Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic cormorant  
double-crested cormorant

*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*  
*Phalacrocorax auritus*

## Family Anhingidae

anhinga

*Anhinga anhinga*

## Family Pelecanidae

American white pelican  
brown pelican

*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*  
*Pelecanus occidentalis*

## Family Ardeidae

American bittern  
least bittern  
great blue heron  
great egret  
snowy egret  
little blue heron  
tricolored heron  
reddish egret  
cattle egret  
green heron  
black-crowned night-heron  
yellow-crowned night-heron

*Botaurus lentiginosus*  
*Ixobrychus exilis*  
*Ardea herodias*  
*Ardea alba*  
*Egretta thula*  
*Egretta caerulea*  
*Egretta tricolor*  
*Egretta rufescens*  
*Bubulcus ibis*  
*Butorides virescens*  
*Nycticorax nycticorax*  
*Nyctanassa violacea*

## Family Threskiornithidae

white ibis  
glossy ibis  
white-faced ibis  
roseate spoonbill

*Eudocimus albus*  
*Plegadis falcinellus*  
*Plegadis chihi*  
*Platalea ajaja*

## Family Cathartidae

black vulture  
turkey vulture

*Coragyps altratus*  
*Cathartes aura*

## Family Pandionidae

osprey

*Pandion haliaetus*

## Family Accipitridae

swallow-tailed kite  
white-tailed kite  
Mississippi kite  
bald eagle  
northern harrier  
sharp-shinned hawk  
Cooper's hawk  
northern goshawk  
red-shouldered hawk  
broad-winged hawk

*Elanoides forficatus*  
*Elanus leucurus*  
*Ictinia mississippiensis*  
*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*  
*Circus cyaneus*  
*Accipiter striatus*  
*Accipiter cooperii*  
*Accipiter gentilis*  
*Buteo lineatus*  
*Buteo platypterus*



## Birds of Illinois —continued

burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	American crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
barred owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	fish crow	<i>Corvus ossifragus</i>
long-eared owl	<i>Asio otus</i>		
short-eared owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	<b>Family Alaudidae</b>	
boreal owl	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	horned lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>
northern saw-whet owl	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>		
<b>Family Caprimulgidae</b>		<b>Family Hirundinidae</b>	
common nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	purple martin	<i>Progne subis</i>
Chuck-will's-widow	<i>Caprimulgus carolinensis</i>	tree swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>
eastern whip-poor-will	<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>	violet-green swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>
		northern rough-winged swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>
<b>Family Apodidae</b>		bank swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
chimney swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	cliff swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>
		barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
<b>Family Trochilidae</b>		<b>Family Paridae</b>	
ruby-throated hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	Carolina chickadee	<i>Poecile carolinensis</i>
broad-tailed hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>	black-capped chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>
rufous hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	boreal chickadee	<i>Poecile hudsonicus</i>
Allen's hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	tufted titmouse	<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>
<b>Family Alcedinidae</b>		<b>Family Sittidae</b>	
belted kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	red-breasted nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>
		white-breasted nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>
<b>Family Picidae</b>		brown-headed nuthatch	<i>Sitta pusilla</i>
red-headed woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	<b>Family Certhiidae</b>	
red-bellied woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	brown creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>
Williamson's sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus thyroides</i>	<b>Family Troglodytidae</b>	
yellow-bellied sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	rock wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>
downy woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Carolina wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>
hairy woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Bewick's wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>
red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	house wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
black-backed woodpecker	<i>Picoides arcticus</i>	winter wren	<i>Troglodytes hiemalis</i>
northern flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	sedge wren	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>
pileated woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	marsh wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>
<b>Family Tyrannidae</b>		<b>Family Polioptilidae</b>	
olive-sided flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	blue-gray gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>
eastern wood-pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	<b>Family Regulidae</b>	
yellow-bellied flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	golden-crowned kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>
Acadian flycatcher	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>	ruby-crowned kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>
alder flycatcher	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	<b>Family Turdidae</b>	
willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	northern wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
least flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	eastern bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>
eastern phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	mountain bluebird	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>
Say's phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Townsend's solitaire	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>
vermillion flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>
ash-throated flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	gray-cheeked thrush	<i>Catharus minimus</i>
great crested flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Swainson's thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>
western kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	hermit thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>
eastern kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	wood thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>
scissor-tailed flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	American robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>
fork-tailed flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>	varied thrush	<i>Ixoreus naevius</i>
<b>Family Laniidae</b>		<b>Family Mimidae</b>	
loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	gray catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>
northern shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	sage thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>
<b>Family Vireonidae</b>		northern mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>
white-eyed vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	brown thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>
Bell's vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	curve-billed thrasher	<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>
yellow-throated vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	<b>Family Sturnidae</b>	
blue-headed vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	European starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
warbling vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	<b>Family Motacillidae</b>	
Philadelphia vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	American pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>
red-eyed vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Sprague's pipit	<i>Anthus spragueii</i>
<b>Family Corvidae</b>		<b>Family Bombycillidae</b>	
Stellar's jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	Bohemian waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>
blue jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	cedar waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>
western scrub-jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>		
Clark's nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>		
black-billed magpie	<i>Pica hudsonia</i>		

## Birds of Illinois —continued

### Family Calcariidae

Lapland longspur  
Smith's longspur  
chestnut-collared longspur  
snow bunting

*Calcarius lapponicus*  
*Calcarius pictus*  
*Calcarius ornatus*  
*Plectrophenax nivalis*

### Family Parulidae

blue-winged warbler  
golden-winged warbler  
Tennessee warbler  
orange-crowned warbler  
Nashville warbler  
northern parula  
yellow warbler  
chestnut-sided warbler  
magnolia warbler  
Cape May warbler  
black-throated blue warbler  
yellow-rumped warbler  
black-throated gray warbler  
black-throated green warbler  
Townsend's warbler  
hermit warbler  
Blackburnian warbler  
yellow-throated warbler  
pine warbler  
Kirtland's warbler  
prairie warbler  
palm warbler  
bay-breasted warbler  
blackpoll warbler  
cerulean warbler  
black-and-white warbler  
American redstart  
prothonotary warbler  
worm-eating warbler  
Swainson's warbler  
ovenbird  
northern waterthrush  
Louisiana waterthrush  
Kentucky warbler  
Connecticut warbler  
mourning warbler  
MacGillivray's warbler  
common yellowthroat  
hooded warbler  
Wilson's warbler  
Canada warbler  
yellow-breasted chat

*Vermivora cyanoptera*  
*Vermivora chrysoptera*  
*Oreothlypis peregrina*  
*Oreothlypis celata*  
*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*  
*Parula americana*  
*Dendroica petechia*  
*Dendroica pensylvanica*  
*Dendroica magnolia*  
*Dendroica tigrina*  
*Dendroica caerulescens*  
*Dendroica coronata*  
*Dendroica nigrescens*  
*Dendroica virens*  
*Dendroica townsendi*  
*Dendroica occidentalis*  
*Dendroica fusca*  
*Dendroica dominica*  
*Dendroica pinus*  
*Dendroica kirtlandii*  
*Dendroica discolor*  
*Dendroica palmarum*  
*Dendroica castanea*  
*Dendroica striata*  
*Dendroica cerulea*  
*Mniotilta varia*  
*Setophaga ruticilla*  
*Protonotaria citrea*  
*Helmitheros vermivorum*  
*Limnithlypis swainsonii*  
*Seiurus aurocapilla*  
*Parkesia noveboracensis*  
*Parkesia motacilla*  
*Oporornis formosus*  
*Oporornis agilis*  
*Oporornis philadelphia*  
*Oporornis tolmiei*  
*Geothlypis trichas*  
*Wilsonia citrina*  
*Wilsonia pusilla*  
*Wilsonia canadensis*  
*Icteria virens*

### Family Emberizidae

green-tailed towhee  
spotted towhee  
eastern towhee  
Cassin's sparrow  
Bachman's sparrow  
American tree sparrow  
chipping sparrow  
clay-colored sparrow  
Brewer's sparrow  
field sparrow  
vesper sparrow  
lark sparrow  
black-throated sparrow  
lark bunting  
savannah sparrow  
grasshopper sparrow

*Pipilo chlorurus*  
*Pipilo maculatus*  
*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*  
*Peucaea cassinii*  
*Peucaea aestivalis*  
*Spizella arborea*  
*Spizella passerina*  
*Spizella pallida*  
*Spizella breweri*  
*Spizella pusilla*  
*Pooecetes gramineus*  
*Chondestes grammacus*  
*Amphispiza bilineata*  
*Calamospiza melanocorys*  
*Passerculus sandwichensis*  
*Ammodramus savannarum*

Henslow's sparrow  
Le Conte's sparrow  
Nelson's sparrow  
fox sparrow  
song sparrow  
Lincoln's sparrow  
swamp sparrow  
white-throated sparrow  
Harris's sparrow  
white-crowned sparrow  
golden-crowned sparrow  
dark-eyed junco

*Ammodramus henslowii*  
*Ammodramus leconteii*  
*Ammodramus nelsoni*  
*Passerella iliaca*  
*Melospiza melodia*  
*Melospiza lincolni*  
*Melospiza georgiana*  
*Zonotrichia albicollis*  
*Zonotrichia querula*  
*Zonotrichia leucophrys*  
*Zonotrichia atricapilla*  
*Junco hyemalis*

### Family Cardinalidae

hepatic tanager  
summer tanager  
scarlet tanager  
western tanager  
northern cardinal  
rose-breasted grosbeak  
black-headed grosbeak  
blue grosbeak  
lazuli bunting  
indigo bunting  
painted bunting  
dickcissel

*Piranga flava*  
*Piranga rubra*  
*Piranga olivacea*  
*Piranga ludoviciana*  
*Cardinalis cardinalis*  
*Pheucticus ludovicianus*  
*Pheucticus melanocephalus*  
*Passerina caerulea*  
*Passerina amoena*  
*Passerina cyanea*  
*Passerina ciris*  
*Spiza americana*

### Family Icteridae

bobolink  
red-winged blackbird  
eastern meadowlark  
western meadowlark  
yellow-headed blackbird  
rusty blackbird  
Brewer's blackbird  
common grackle  
great-tailed grackle  
brown-headed cowbird  
orchard oriole  
Baltimore oriole  
Scott's oriole

*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*  
*Agelaius phoeniceus*  
*Sturnella magna*  
*Sturnella neglecta*  
*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*  
*Euphagus carolinus*  
*Euphagus cyanocephalus*  
*Quiscalus quiscula*  
*Quiscalus mexicanus*  
*Molothrus ater*  
*Icterus spurius*  
*Icterus galbula*  
*Icterus parisorum*

### Family Fringillidae

gray-crowned rosy-finch  
pine grosbeak  
purple finch  
house finch  
red crossbill  
white-winged crossbill  
common redpoll  
hoary redpoll  
pine siskin  
American goldfinch  
evening grosbeak

*Leucosticte tephrocotis*  
*Pinicola enucleator*  
*Carpodacus purpureus*  
*Carpodacus mexicanus*  
*Loxia curvirostra*  
*Loxia leucoptera*  
*Acanthis flammea*  
*Acanthis hornemanni*  
*Spinus pinus*  
*Spinus tristis*  
*Coccothraustes vespertinus*

### Family Passeridae

Eurasian tree sparrow  
house sparrow

*Passer montanus*  
*Passer domesticus*

### Sources:

American Ornithologists' Union. 2010. *Check-list of North American birds*. <http://www.aou.org/checklist/north/index.php>  
Illinois Natural History Survey. 2010. *Birds of Illinois*. [http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/animals\\_plants/birds/illbirds.html](http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/animals_plants/birds/illbirds.html)