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Kale, H. W., II, B. Pranty, B. M. Stith, and C. W. Biggs. 1992. The atlas of the breeding birds of Florida. Final Report. Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.

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Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*

The Wood Thrush is best known by its flute-like song, commonly heard in the morning and evening, rivaling the best of North America's songsters for its beauty and complexity.

The Wood Thrush breeds in eastern North America, from southern Canada to Texas, the Gulf coast, and northwest Florida. The winter range is from south Texas through Central America.

Habitat. The Wood Thrush is primarily associated with mature forests with a well-shaded understory. Common components among forested habitats used by Wood Thrushes include a thick layer of deciduous leaf litter and the occurrence of a moderately dense understory. It is found in creek bottoms, wet areas with deciduous trees, and woody suburbs. It feeds on small invertebrates in the leaf litter.

The nest is a bulky and compact cup of leafy material with a mud layer, lined with rootlets and other fine materials. The 3 or 4 unmarked greenish-blue eggs are incubated for 13 or 14 days. Young birds fledge at about 12 days of age (Ehrlich et al. 1988).

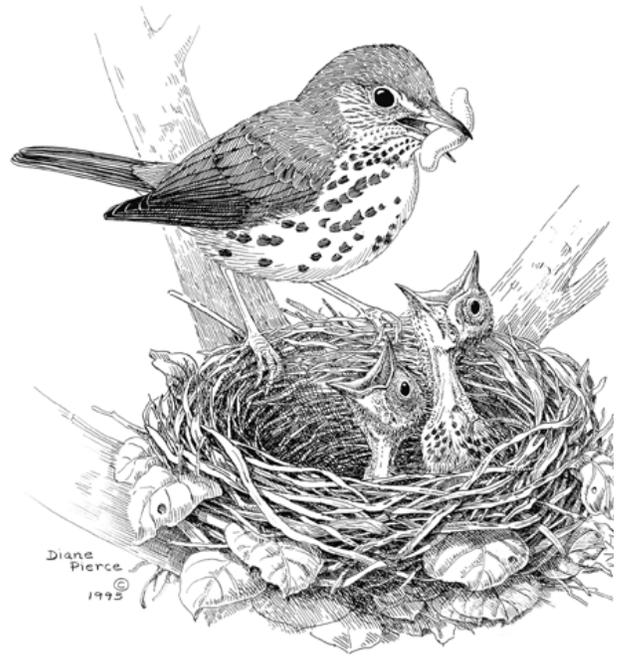


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Seasonal Occurrence. The Wood Thrush is a summer resident in north Florida from late March and early April to late October. Breeding occurs from May through July with eggs being found 6 May to 30 July (Stevenson and Anderson 1994).

Status. In Florida the Wood Thrush is most frequently encountered in the Panhandle, east to Jefferson County. Populations also occur in extreme northeastern Florida, with a scattering of confirmed breeding records south to Alachua County. The Wood Thrush has extended its breeding range southward in Florida. Because of its loud, distinctive, and frequently uttered song, it is easily located.

The Wood Thrush is extremely vulnerable to brood parasitism by the *Brown-headed Cowbird*, whose population in Florida has spread and increased greatly in recent years.

William C. Hunter

Sponsored by Russell E. Train

Wood Thrush

