



HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- lakes, ponds & reservoirs
- Lake Michigan
- marshes
- peatlands
- rivers & streams
- swamps
- temp water supplies
- wet prairies & fens

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

statewide

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

gray fox

Urocyon cinereoargenteus

Kingdom: Animalia
 Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates
 Class: Mammalia
 Order: Carnivora
 Family: Canidae

FEATURES

The gray fox has a head-body length of about 21 to 29 inches and a tail about 11 to 16 inches long. It weighs between five and one-half and nine pounds. The back is gray with a salt-and-pepper look. The back part of its ears, the belly, the top of all feet, the sides and the underside of the tail are a light red color. There is a white stripe underneath the body from the throat to tail. The tail has a black line down the middle and a black tip. The chin, lips and nose are black. The ears stand straight up and are very noticeable.

BEHAVIORS

The gray fox lives in wooded areas. This animal is an omnivore that eats fruits, birds, corn, insects, nuts, mice, rabbits and roots. It is a very good tree climber and may use a tree for a resting place. Mating occurs from January through March. Young are born in April and May after a gestation period of about two months days. Litter size averages about four. Young are on their own after about four months.