



red bat

Lasiurus borealis

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates
Class: Mammalia
Order: Chiroptera
Family: Vespertilionidae

FEATURES

The red bat is three and three-fourths to four and three-fourths inches in length. It has soft, rust-colored fur with white tips. Its large, wide tail is furred on the top, and its hind feet are furred, too. The shoulder has a white patch. The tragus is less than half the length of the ear.

BEHAVIORS

The red bat lives primarily in trees, bushes, shrubs and weeds but may occasionally be found in attics or caves. Its wintering roost sites are not known. The red bat is an insectivore that feeds from dusk to dawn. This bat is fairly tolerant of cold. Mating occurs in the fall and spring. Those females that mate in the fall store sperm in the uterus until spring, when it is used to fertilize the eggs. The gestation period is about three months. Two, three or four young are born to a female in May or June. The female forages without taking her young with her.

HABITATS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rivers & streams |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lakes, ponds & reservoirs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> swamps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> temp water supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> marshes | <input type="checkbox"/> wet prairies & fens |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> peatlands | |

ILLINOIS STATUS

- | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> common | <input type="checkbox"/> endangered | <input type="checkbox"/> threatened |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>native</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>exotic</u> | |

ILLINOIS RANGE

statewide

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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