



tiger salamander

Ambystoma tigrinum

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata
Class: Amphibia
Order: Caudata
Family: Ambystomatidae

FEATURES

The tiger salamander averages seven to eight and one-fourth inches in length. Its body is blue-black or brown-black with random, small, yellow blotches. The olive-yellow belly has dark stripes.

BEHAVIORS

The tiger salamander may be found statewide in Illinois. This salamander lives in woodlands, swamps, prairies, urban areas and farm fields. It spends most of its time under ground. It is active at night. Breeding occurs in the spring, although migration to breeding ponds may occur in the fall. Clusters of 25 to 100 eggs are attached to objects on the bottom of a pond. A female may deposit about 1,000 eggs in a breeding season. Incubation depends on the temperature but averages three weeks. Larvae transform to the adult land-based form from July through September. The tiger salamander eats any animal that it can catch, especially worms and insects.

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.