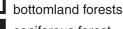


HABITATS



coniferous forest

southern Illinois lowlands

upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS



endangered exotic

threatened

ILLINOIS BANGE

Permanent resident: northeastern 1/4 + southeastern 1/4 Summer resident: Migrant: Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

pygmy shrew

Sorex hovi

Kingdom: Animalia Division/Phylum: Chordata Class: Mammalia Order: Insectivora Family: Soricidae

FEATURES

The adult pygmy shrew is three to three and one-half inches in length, including the tail. It has a black-brown body, tiny, black eyes and a long, pointed nose. The belly color is a lighter version of that on the back.

BEHAVIORS

The pygmy shrew may be found in the northeastern onefourth and the southeastern one-fourth of Illinois. This mammal lives in woods and adjacent grassy areas. It requires fallen or rotting logs or forest floor litter to be a part of the habitat. The pygmy shrew eats insect larvae, spiders, beetles and ants. It is active year round. This shrew releases a musky odor when it is disturbed. The pygmy shrew is the smallest mammal in Illinois by weight. It is believed that this shrew produces more then one litter per year.