



Indiana bat

Myotis sodalis

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

FEATURES

The small Indiana bat has a short forearm. Its hair is black on the lower two-thirds, gray on the outer one-third and cinnamon at the tip. The hair on the foot does not extend past the toes. The fur on the back appears dull.

BEHAVIORS

In summer, the Indiana bat may be found in the southern one-third of Illinois. About 90 percent of the entire population of these bats hibernate in just a few caves in Missouri, Kentucky and southern Indiana. Very small numbers hibernate in Illinois in a mine in LaSalle County and in caves and mines along the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. In summer, females seek dead trees with loose bark or live trees with shaggy bark in which to rest and raise their young. Females tend to forage around water, over floodplain trees and in and around wooded areas. Males forage among trees. The Indiana bat is an insectivore eating mostly moths, caddisflies, leafhoppers, planthoppers and beetle larvae. Mating occurs in fall, winter or spring. Females mating in fall and winter store sperm in the uterus until spring, when it is used to fertilize the eggs. Females leave the wintering site in April. Young are born in June or July. This bat may live for more than 10 years.

HABITATS

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

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident:

Summer resident: southern 1/3

Migrant:

Winter resident: Mississippi and Ohio rivers border counties + La Salle County

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.

Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.