



## Rafinesque's big-eared bat

*Plecotus rafinesquii*

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

### FEATURES

Rafinesque's big-eared bat has a brown-black body. Its belly has white hairs with black roots. It has huge ears (over one inch in length), each with a long and pointed tragus. The ears can be curled when resting or hibernating. Bumps formed by glands can be seen on either side of its nose.

### BEHAVIORS

Rafinesque's big-eared bat may be found in the southern one-third of Illinois. It lives in trees, abandoned buildings, mines and caves. Rafinesque's big-eared bat eats insects. It flies late at night and is a fast flyer. This bat hibernates in mines and caves in southern Illinois. In the summer, these bats gather in colonies of less than 30 individuals. Mating occurs in the fall, winter or spring. Those females that mate in the fall or winter store sperm in the uterus until spring, when it is used to fertilize the egg. Young are born in May or June, usually one per female. Young can fly about three weeks after birth.

### HABITATS

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

### ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

### ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: southern 1/3

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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