



## white-footed mouse

*Peromyscus leucopus*

Kingdom: Animalia  
Division/Phylum: Chordata  
Class: Mammalia  
Order: Rodentia  
Family: Muridae

### FEATURES

The white-footed mouse is about three and three-fourths to four and one-fourth inches in length (head-body). It has bulging, black eyes. The body is red-brown with a dark band down the middle of the back. The belly and feet are white. The tail is longer than the length of its head-body. The tail is dark above and light below.

### BEHAVIORS

The white-footed mouse may be found statewide in Illinois. This rodent prefers wooded or brushy areas but will live in nearly any terrestrial habitat. The white-footed mouse eats seeds and other vegetation, insects and spiders. It is found on or above the ground in such locations as hollow logs, stumps, trees, abandoned bird nests and in thickets and is active at night. It is believed that the white-footed mouse mates throughout the year and that young may be born in any month. Litter size is four or five. Young are helpless at birth but are ready to live on their own in about one month.

### 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.