



## meadow jumping mouse

*Zapus hudsonius*

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

### FEATURES

The small (three to three and one-half inches long) meadow jumping mouse has a brown back. The golden sides have an orange stripe. The belly is white. The meadow jumping mouse has a long (four and one-half to six inches) tail. The top of the tail is the same color as the back while the bottom of the tail is white. Its orange or yellow upper incisors are grooved. The back feet are enlarged for jumping.

### BEHAVIORS

The meadow jumping mouse may be found statewide in Illinois. This rodent lives in moist areas in fields, woods and along streams, ponds and marshes. It eats seeds. When this mouse is disturbed, it will move in a series of jumps. It can swim. The meadow jumping mouse hibernates during the winter, usually entering hibernation in late September or October. It emerges again in late April or May. Mating probably occurs twice a year, once in spring and once in fall. The litter size varies between two and nine. Young are helpless at birth but develop rapidly. They are able to live on their own in about four weeks.

### 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.