



coyote

Canis latrans

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata
Class: Mammalia
Order: Carnivora
Family: Canidae

FEATURES

The coyote has a 32- to 37-inch long body, 11- to 16-inch tail and weighs 20 to 40 pounds. The color of the back is variable but is usually gray or reddish-gray with a partial black stripe in the middle. The belly is a creamy gray color. The pointed ears are reddish on the back. The fluffy tail has a black tip.

BEHAVIORS

The coyote may be found statewide in Illinois. This carnivore lives in woodlands, wooded bluffs and prairies. It eats mice, rabbits, fruits and carrion. It makes “yip-yap” sounds. The tail is held between its back legs as it runs. Mating occurs in February with young born in April. The same pair may mate for more than one year. Litter size varies, but six or seven young are typically born to a female. Young are born and reared in a burrow or den. The male brings food to the female and pups. When the young are able to eat solid food (about six weeks after birth), the adults may regurgitate partially digested food for them.

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.