



## bobcat

*Felis rufus*

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

## FEATURES

The adult bobcat has a head-body length of 25 to 35 inches. Its tail is about five inches long. It weighs 15 to 30 pounds. Its sides and back are a mix of gray, brown and tan with dark streaks and spots. The belly is white or tan with black spots. The tail has a black tip. Its short, pointed ears have tufts of black hair on the tip.

## BEHAVIORS

The bobcat may be found statewide in Illinois. It lives in wooded bluffs, rolling hills with open fields, brushy ravines or bottomland forests. The bobcat is a carnivore that eats cottontails, squirrels, mice and birds. It may eat carrion if other food is not available. It has very acute eyesight and hearing. The bobcat is a good climber. It is mostly nocturnal and solitary. It can hiss, growl, snarl or scream. Mating occurs February through April. Young are born after a gestation period of about two months. Litter size is one or two. Young are able to live on their own at about two months of age.

## 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.