



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.

baldface hornet

representative specimen

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Arthropoda
Class:
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

The baldface hornet is black with yellow-white markings on the face, thorax and end of the abdomen.

BEHAVIORS

The baldface hornet may be found statewide in Illinois. Its nest is composed of several layers of hexagonal, paper cells which are enclosed in a papery covering. It is built on a branch or beneath an overhang and may be a foot or more wide by the end of the summer. Larvae are raised in the cells and are fed chewed-up insects. These social insects have three castes -- queens, workers and males. Queens and workers are females. Females have the ability to sting. The colony exists for one season only. Queens overwinter and start new colonies in the spring, with the first brood of the year consisting entirely of workers.

HABITATS

bottomland forests
 coniferous forest
 southern Illinois lowlands
 upland deciduous forest