

southeastern bat *Myotis austroriparius*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Chiroptera

Family: Vespertilionidae

ILLINOIS STATUS endangered, native

FEATURES

The medium-sized southeastern bat has a short forearm. It has dull, gray-brown body fur with white belly fur. The hair on the foot extends past the tip of the toes.

BEHAVIORS

The southeastern bat may be found in the southern tip of Illinois. It lives in caves, mines, hollow trees or buildings that are near water. The southeastern bat eats insects. It flies low to the ground or water when hunting for food. Females gather in maternity colonies in the summer, but no colonies have been found in Illinois. Winter colonies include small clusters of both males and females. These bats hibernate in Illinois. Although little information is available for Illinois, maternity colonies in the southern states form in March and April. Two young are born per female during the period from late April through June. The young are left on their own when the female forages. Young are capable of flight about five weeks after birth.

The endangered status of the southeastern bat in Illinois is mainly due to the degradation, disturbance or loss of cave, wetland and mine habitats.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests; lakes, ponds and reservoirs; rivers and streams; swamps

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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