

## southern short-tailed shrew *Blarina carolinensis*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Soricomorpha

Family: Soricidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

### FEATURES

A southern short-tailed shrew is four to five inches in length, including the tail. It has a large body with gray-black fur except on the belly where the fur is brown. The tail is short. There are no external ears, and the eyes are tiny and black.

### BEHAVIORS

The southern short-tailed shrew may be found in the southern one-third of Illinois. It lives in wooded areas, grassy fields and thickets. This mammal feeds on invertebrates including earthworms, snails, slugs and insect larvae. The southern short-tailed shrew is active during the day and night throughout the year. Little is known of its reproduction, but it is believed that young are born in the spring and fall. Females born in the spring may bear a litter in the fall.

### HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

**none**

Woodland Habitats

**upland deciduous forests**

Prairie and Edge Habitats

**black soil prairie; edge**

© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2017. Biodiversity of Illinois.