

SPECIES SHEET

AMERICAN BADGER

Taxidea taxus

Statistics

length: head and body 17 - 31";
tail 4 - 6"
weight: 13 - 26 lbs.
number of teeth: 34
young: one to five young per litter, born
in March or April; one litter per year

Habitat

open country such as prairies, pas-
tures, brushy fields, alfalfa fields

Food

animals (carnivore): thirteen-lined ground
squirrels, woodchucks, plains pocket gophers,
voles, mice, cottontails, birds

Period of Activity

mainly at night (nocturnal) but also in the
day (diurnal)

Gestation Period

about seven months
(development is delayed after mating)

Age at Maturity

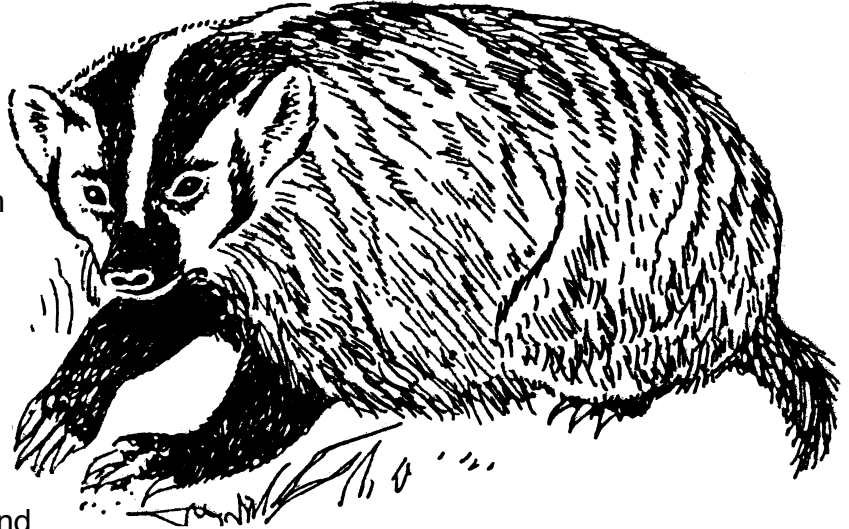
about one year

Hibernates?

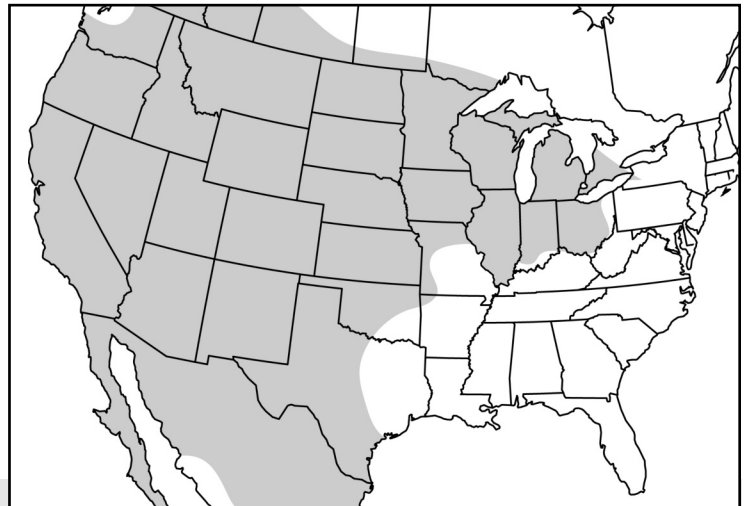
no

Distribution

statewide



U.S. Distribution



Badger Trivia

The badger's body is broad and flat, and its legs are short and strong. The claws on its front feet are very long. All of these features make badgers powerful diggers. Badgers dig burrows in search of food and then use those burrows for shelter.

SPECIES SHEET

AMERICAN BEAVER

Castor canadensis

Statistics

length: head and body 20 - 36"; tail 9 - 15"

weight: 30 - 66 lbs.

number of teeth: 20

young: three or four born in May or June;

one litter per year

Habitat

along streams, rivers, ponds and lakes
usually with trees in close proximity

Food

vegetation (herbivore): bark of trees and
shrubs, leaves, aquatic plants and grasses

Period of Activity

late afternoon and at night (nocturnal)

Gestation Period

105 days

Age at Maturity

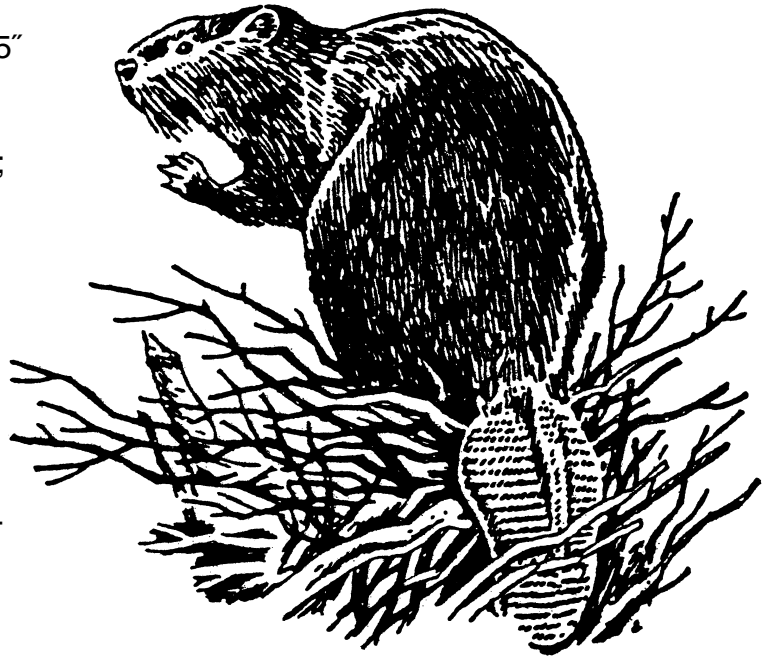
two years

Hibernates?

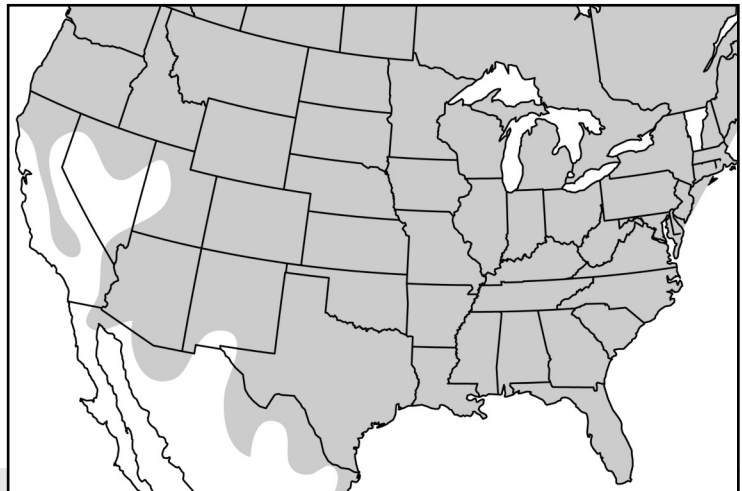
no

Distribution

Illinois: statewide



U.S. Distribution



Beaver Trivia

The beaver is the largest rodent in Illinois. This mammal has a large, flat, paddlelike tail and webbed hind feet that help it swim. The large tail of the beaver may be used to slap the water as a means of communicating with other beavers. Beavers spend most of their time in the water, only coming onto land to rest, rear young and feed. Undoubtedly, the most well-known fact about the beaver is its ability to cut trees which it uses to construct dams and lodges.

SPECIES SHEET

BOBCAT

Lynx rufus

Statistics

length: head and body 20 - 39"; tail 4 - 7"
weight: 15 - 22 lbs.
number of teeth: 28
young: one to four born late spring; one litter per year

Habitat

wooded or timbered bluffs or rolling hills intermixed with open fields, brushy ravines or open bottom-lands

Food

animals (carnivore): cottontails, squirrels, mice and various types of birds

Period of Activity

night (nocturnal)

Gestation Period

about two months

Age at Maturity

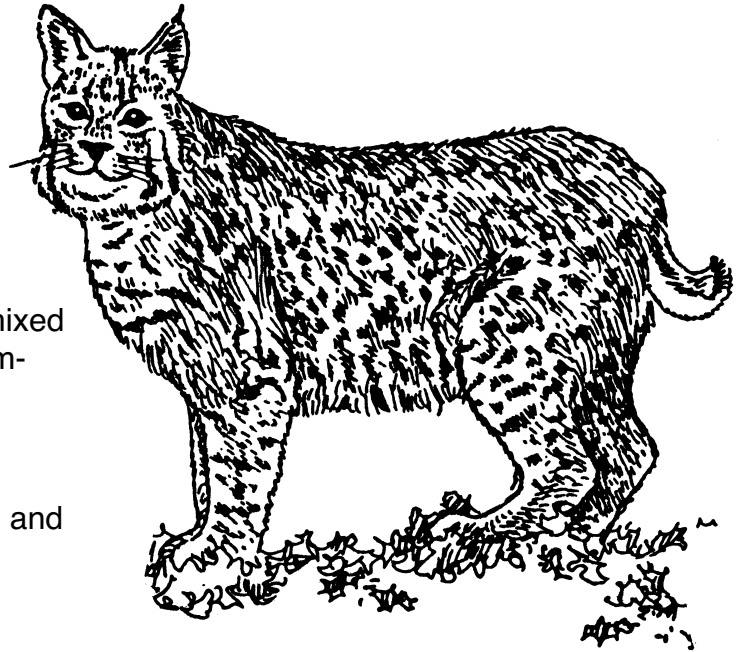
one year

Hibernates?

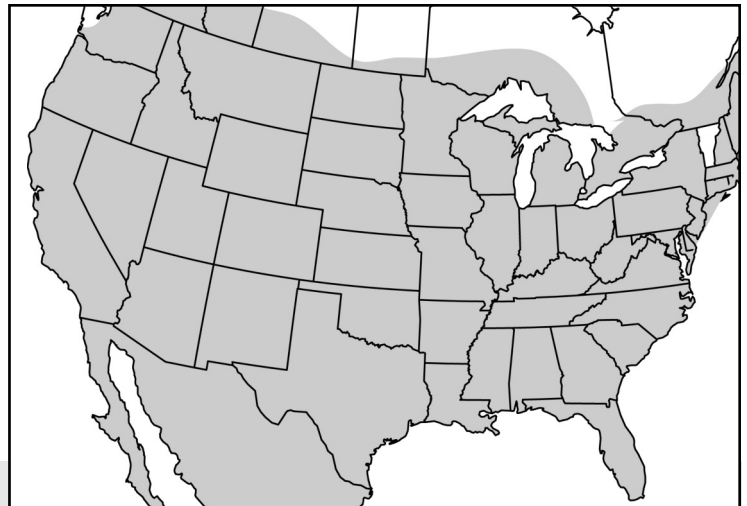
no

Distribution

Illinois: southern third of the state and sporadically remainder of state



U.S. Distribution



Bobcat Trivia

Bobcats were once considered rare in Illinois. They are now common in forested areas in southern Illinois and increasingly so along major river systems in the state. The home range of a bobcat is usually two miles in diameter; however, they have been known to wander as far as 25 - 50 miles.

SPECIES SHEET

COYOTE

Canis latrans

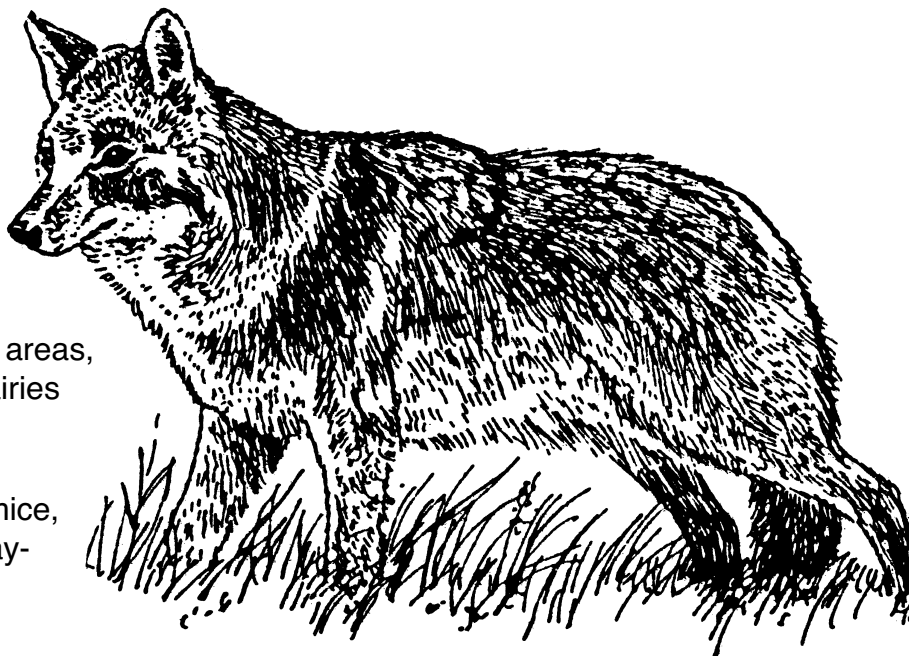
Statistics

length: head and body 28 - 44";
tail 11 - 15"

weight: 20 - 35 lbs.

number of teeth: 42

young: six or seven young born
in spring; one litter per year



Habitat

various habitats including brushy areas,
woodland, wooded bluffs and prairies

Food

animals (carnivore): cottontails, mice,
deer, raccoons, various birds, cray-
fish and grasshoppers

Period of Activity

mainly at night (nocturnal) but also
during the day (diurnal)

Gestation Period

two months

Age at Maturity

one or two years

Hibernates?

no

Distribution

Illinois: statewide

U.S. Distribution



Coyote Trivia

The coyote was present before European settlers arrived in Illinois and has increased in numbers since then due to the removal of timber. The coyote travels approximately 10 miles daily in search of food and has been known to travel distances as much as 100 miles. Coyotes can run at speeds more than 40 mph, a speed faster than cars are allowed to travel on most city streets.

SPECIES SHEET

EASTERN CHIPMUNK

Tamias striatus

Statistics

length: head and body 5 - 7"; tail 3 - 4"
weight: 2.8 - 5.3 oz.
number of teeth: 20
young: two litters of two to six young born in spring and summer

Habitat

wooded bluffs, ravines and brushy areas in or adjacent to deciduous forests, urban areas

Food

vegetation and animals (omnivore): nuts, seeds, fruits, fungi, flowers, buds, snails, caterpillars and frogs

Period of Activity

day (diurnal)

Gestation Period

one month

Age at Maturity

one year

Hibernates?

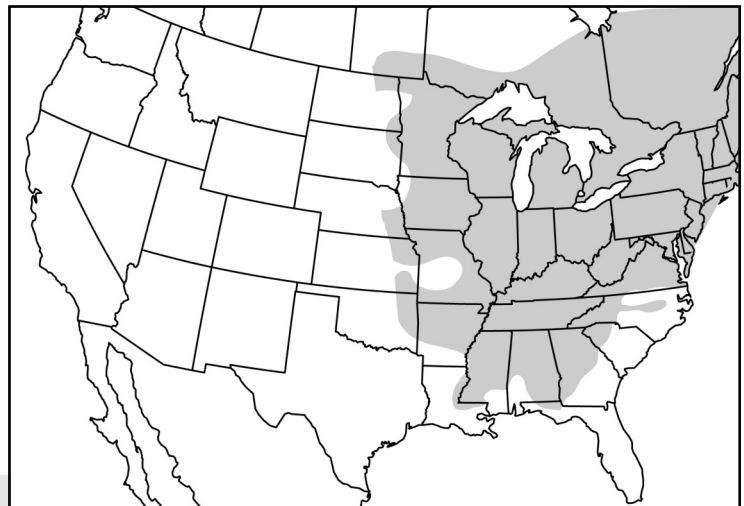
no

Distribution

Illinois: statewide



U.S. Distribution



Chipmunk Trivia

Chipmunks spend a considerable amount of time searching for food, which they may store in burrows. Food is carried to the burrow in the cheek pouches inside their mouth. Chipmunks do not store much fat in their body and must awaken often in winter to eat food that is stored in the burrow.

SPECIES SHEET

EASTERN COTTONTAIL (RABBIT)

Sylvilagus floridanus

Statistics

length: head and body 11 - 18";
tail 2.0 - 2.5"; ears 2.5 - 3.0"
weight: 2 - 3 lbs.
number of teeth: 28
young: four to six young per litter born from
March to September; three to seven litters
per year

Habitat

a variety of cover types including weeds, brush
piles, hedges, short grasses and shrubs

Food

vegetation (herbivore): grasses, clover, alfalfa,
seeds, buds, fruits and bark

Period of Activity

early evening to early morning (mostly nocturnal)

Gestation Period

one month

Age at Maturity

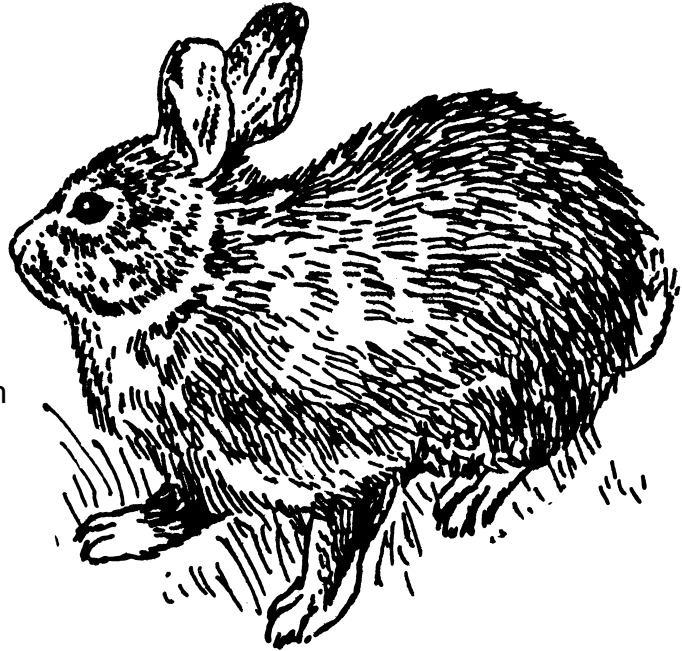
six months

Hibernates?

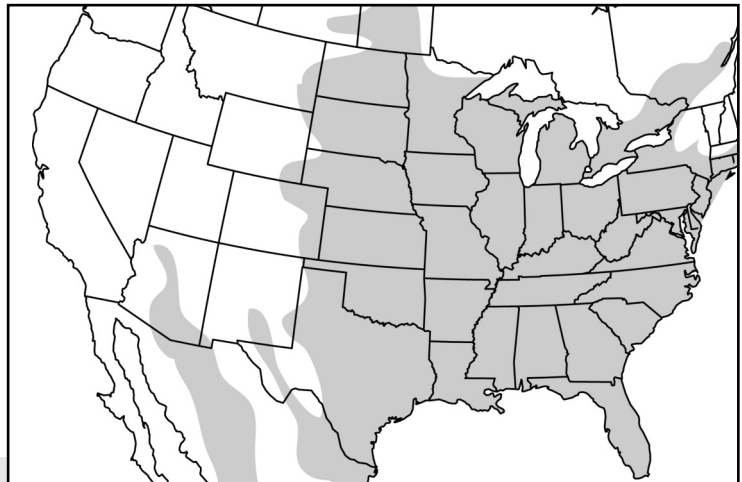
no

Distribution

Illinois: statewide



U.S. Distribution



Cottontail Trivia

The cottontail has large hind legs that help it hop and run fast. The female cottontail places the blind, helpless newborns in a shallow depression in the ground or a short burrow. These areas are lined with hair and covered with grasses to hide the young when the female is away.

SPECIES SHEET

EASTERN FOX SQUIRREL

Sciurus niger

Statistics

length: head and body 10 - 16"; tail 8 - 12"

weight: 1.1 - 3.0 lbs.

number of teeth: 20

young: two litters (late winter and summer) of two to four young each



Habitat

lives on the edges of forests and other open woodlands, urban areas

Food

vegetation and animals (omnivore):
fruits, buds, seeds, flowers, leaves,
fungi and insects

Period of Activity

day (diurnal)

Gestation Period

six weeks

Age at Maturity

one year

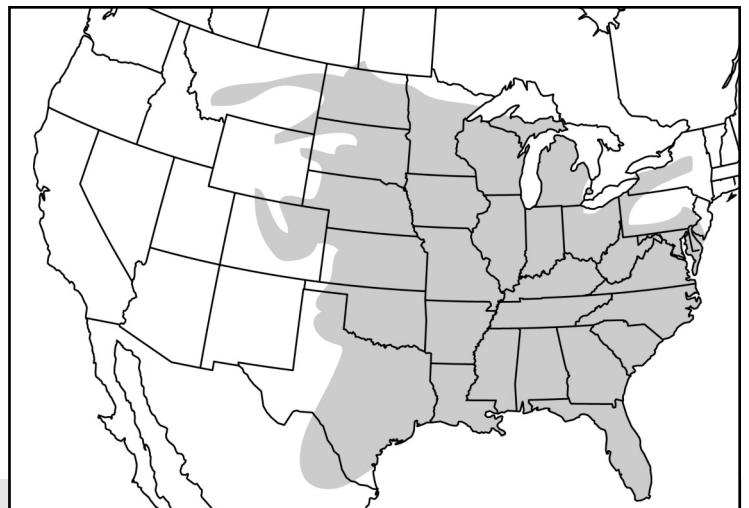
Hibernates?

no

Distribution

Illinois: statewide

U.S. Distribution



Fox Squirrel Trivia

Fox squirrels become inactive in winter. A fox squirrel curls up into a ball shape inside of a tree cavity or a leaf nest. Leaf nests are constructed in large trees and often used in habitats where tree cavities are absent. The home range of a fox squirrel is between 10 and 40 acres.

SPECIES SHEET

EASTERN RED BAT

Lasiurus borealis

Statistics

length: head and body 2 - 3"; tail 1.8 - 2.0"

weight: 0.25 - 0.60 oz.

number of teeth: 32

young: one to five young born in
May or June; one litter per
year

Habitat

found in trees, shrubs and weeds,
rarely in caves or attics

Food

animals (carnivore): moths, flying ants,
leafhoppers, flies and beetles

Period of Activity

night (nocturnal)

Gestation Period

three months

Age at Maturity

one year

Hibernates?

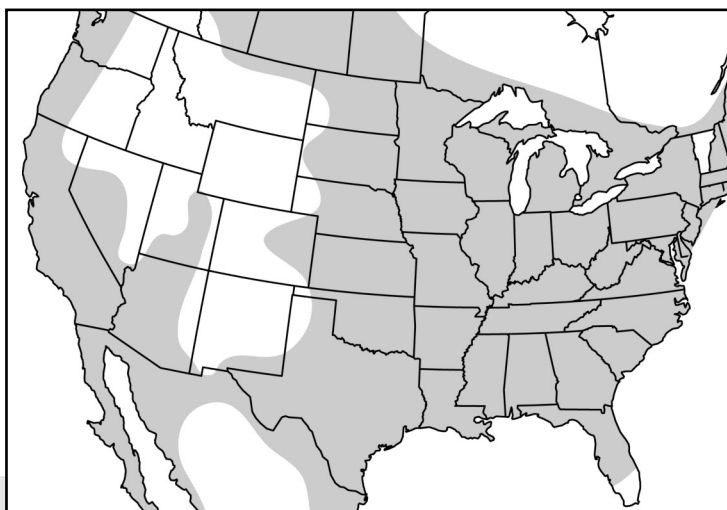
no; migrates south for the winter

Distribution

Illinois: statewide



U.S. Distribution



Red Bat Trivia

Eastern red bats reside in Illinois during spring-summer-fall and migrate south for the winter when their food supply, insects, is not available. There are 12 species of bats found in Illinois, and red bats are one of the more common species. Bats rely on echolocation, or supersonic sounds, to locate objects.

SPECIES SHEET

NORTHERN SHORT-TAILED SHREW

Blarina brevicauda

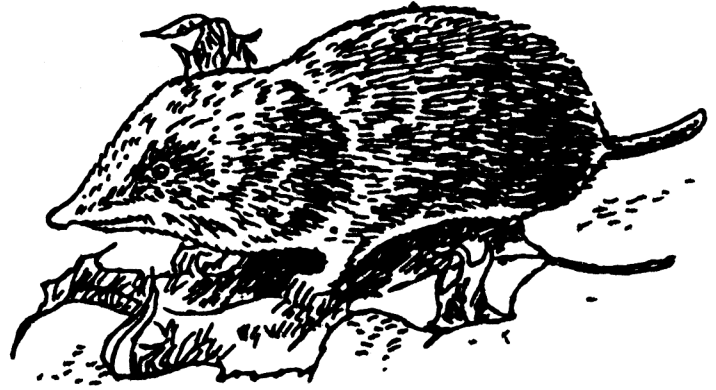
Statistics

length: head and body 3 - 4"; tail 0.5 - 1.2"

weight: 0.5 - 1.0 oz.

number of teeth: 32

young: four to seven young per litter born in spring and fall; two to three litters per year



Habitat

various habitats (grassy fencerows, open woodlands) but most common in woodlands

Food

animals (carnivore): earthworms, slugs, snails, insects, insect larvae and other small animals

Period of Activity

day (diurnal) and night (nocturnal)

Gestation Period

three weeks

Age at Maturity

two months

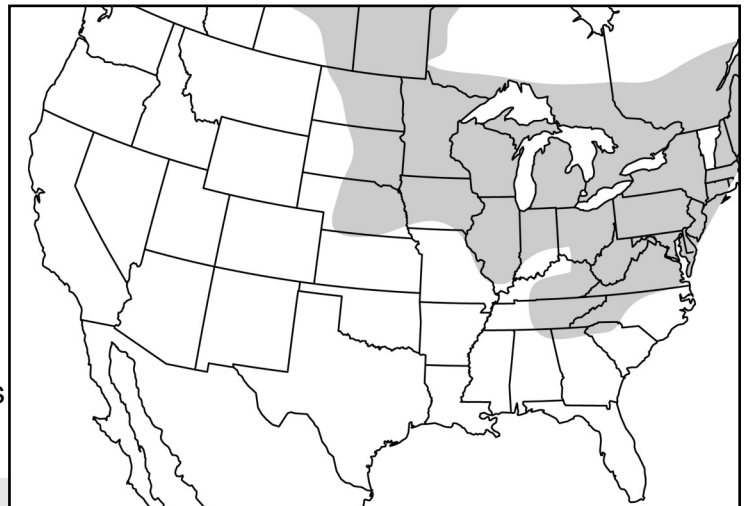
Hibernates?

no

Distribution

Illinois: common in the northern two-thirds of the state and less common in southern Illinois

U.S. Distribution



Shrew Trivia

Shrews have enormous appetites and are known to eat more than their body weight each day. They use their poisonous saliva to paralyze prey. They are able to produce sounds that humans cannot hear. These sounds help them to move about in their habitat. Shrews are ferocious fighters, protecting their home range (0.5 – 1.0 acre) and food supply.

SPECIES SHEET

PLAINS POCKET GOPHER

Geomys bursarius

Statistics

length: head and body 6 - 9"; tail 2 - 4"
weight: 0.5 – 1.0 lb.
number of teeth: 20
young: three to six young born in spring;
one litter per year

Habitat

requires well-drained soil with
tuberous-rooted plants

Food

vegetation (herbivore): roots, stems and leaves

Period of Activity

day (diurnal) and night (nocturnal)

Gestation Period

one month

Age at Maturity

one year

Hibernates?

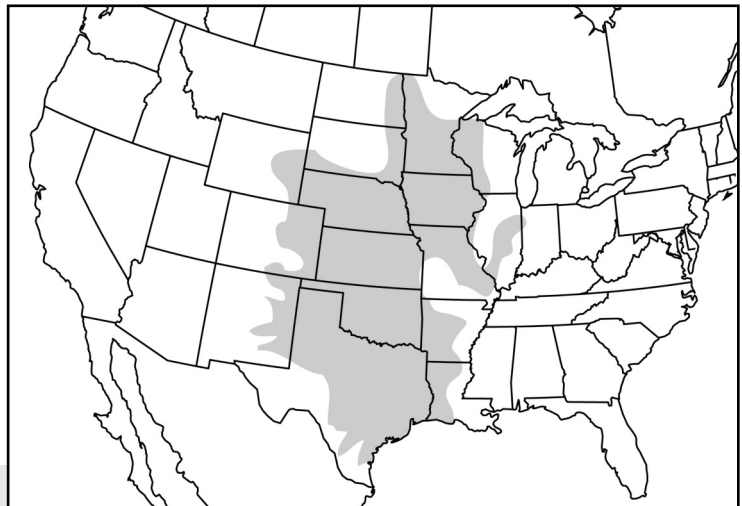
no

Distribution

Illinois: narrow band along the Illinois and
Kankakee Rivers



U.S. Distribution



Pocket Gopher Trivia

The pocket gopher is a rodent with special adaptations for a fossorial, or underground life. Its front feet are large with a strong claw on each toe to help it dig dirt. Gophers are able to close their mouth behind their incisors, or front teeth, so they can dig with their teeth without getting dirt in their mouth. Areas where pocket gophers live have mounds of dirt at the entrances of their burrows. The burrow system may be as much as 500 feet long.

SPECIES SHEET

PRAIRIE VOLE

Microtus ochrogaster

Statistics

length: head and body 3.8 - 5.5"; tail 1.0 - 1.5"

weight: 1.0 - 2.1 oz.

number of teeth: 16

young: three or four young per litter; several litters per year

Habitat

variety of grassy areas

Food

vegetation (herbivore): clover, alfalfa, grasses and weeds

Period of Activity

day (diurnal) and night (nocturnal)

Gestation Period

three weeks

Age at Maturity

about three weeks

Hibernates?

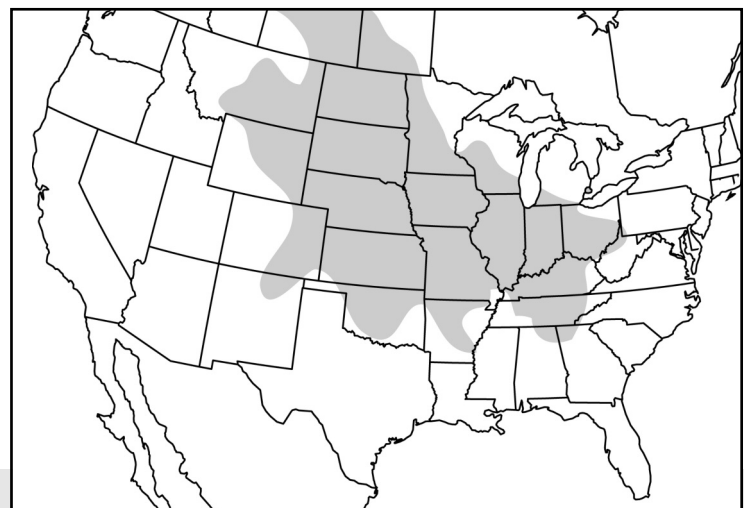
no

Distribution

Illinois: statewide



U.S. Distribution



Prairie Vole Trivia

Prairie voles live in an extensive underground burrow system, connected on the surface by runways which can only be seen by parting the vegetation. The average life span of a prairie vole is five to 12 weeks, making it necessary for the species to produce young throughout the year. Prairie voles are a food source for many animals, including hawks, owls, coyotes, foxes and bobcats.

SPECIES SHEET

RACCOON

Procyon lotor

Statistics

length: head and body 19 - 28"; tail 8 - 12"

weight: 12 - 26 lbs.

number of teeth: 40

young: three to four young born in the spring or summer; one litter per year

Habitat

various habitats, always near a permanent source of water

Food

vegetation and animals (omnivore): nuts, berries, grains, seeds, crayfish, fishes, turtles, cottontails, voles and mice

Period of Activity

night (nocturnal)

Gestation Period

two months

Age at Maturity

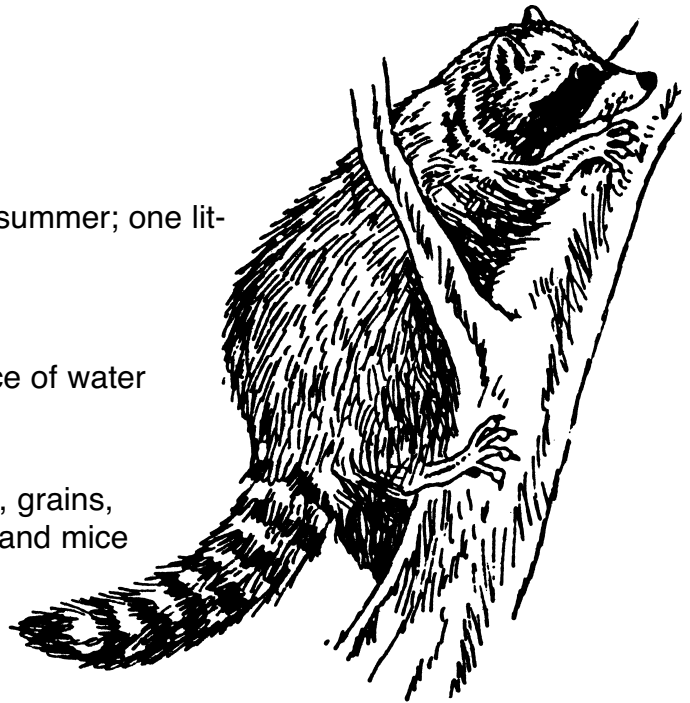
eight months

Hibernates?

no

Distribution

Illinois: statewide



U.S. Distribution



Raccoon Trivia

The raccoon is an easily recognized mammal having a black-masked face and a ringed tail. Raccoons are good climbers and swimmers. The home range of a raccoon is one to two miles across. Raccoons have become common in urban environments, feeding on garbage and pet food and living in hollow trees and abandoned and occupied homes.

SPECIES SHEET

THIRTEEN-LINED GROUND SQUIRREL

Spermophilus tridecemlineatus

Statistics

length: head and body 5 - 8"; tail 3.0 - 4.5"
weight: 3.5 - 9 oz.
number of teeth: 22
young: six to 10 young born in May or June;
one litter per year

Habitat

areas having short vegetation

Food

vegetation and animals (omnivore): grasses, weeds, seeds, grasshoppers, beetles, ants and earthworms

Period of Activity

day (diurnal)

Gestation Period

one month

Age at Maturity

one year

Hibernates?

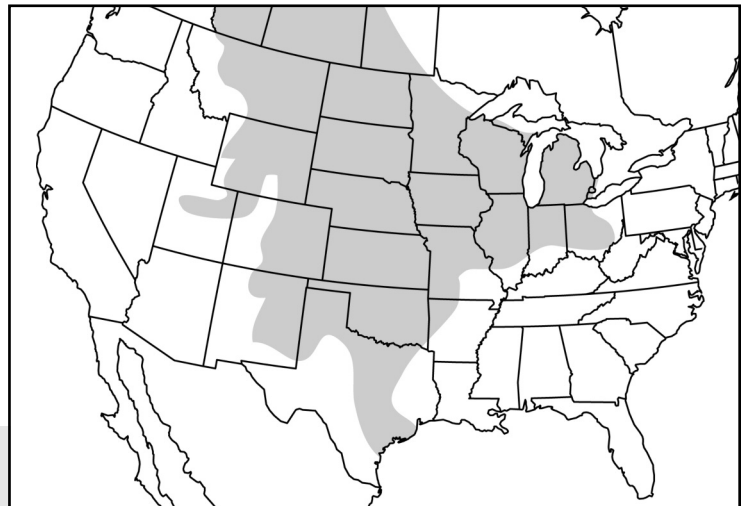
yes; five or six months of the year

Distribution

Illinois: northern two-thirds of state



U.S. Distribution



Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel Trivia

Thirteen-lined ground squirrels are found in short grassy areas where they are often seen sitting up on their hind legs. These ground squirrels live in burrows which are dug leaving no sign of the burrow except the opening. Three types of burrows are constructed (hiding, nesting and hibernation) with differences in the size and depth of the burrow and type of nest cavity present.

SPECIES SHEET

VIRGINIA OPOSSUM

Didelphis virginiana

Statistics

length: head and body 17 - 21"; tail 8.5 - 12.5"

weight: 6 - 12 lbs.

number of teeth: 50

young: seven to 21 young per litter; two litters per year (late February and May or June)



Habitat

various habitats including woodlands, stream corridors, brushy areas and urban areas

Food

vegetation and animals (omnivore): fruit, grain, seeds, insects, birds, eggs, reptiles and earthworms; scavenged material such as garbage, road-killed animals and pet food

Period of Activity

night (nocturnal)

Gestation Period

two weeks

Age at Maturity

nine months to one year

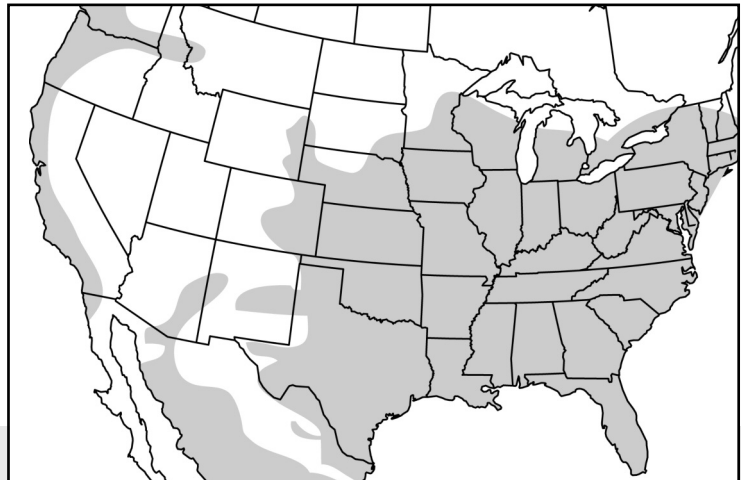
Hibernates?

no

Distribution

Illinois: statewide

U.S. Distribution



Opossum Trivia

The Virginia opossum is the only marsupial in North America. Marsupials are primitive mammals that give birth to immature young. The young crawl into a pouch on the female's abdomen where they mature. When confronted with a threatening situation, an opossum may play dead, hiss, growl, bare its teeth or run.

SPECIES SHEET

WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE

Peromyscus leucopus

Statistics

length: head and body 3.5 - 4.2"; tail 2.3 - 4.0"

weight: 0.5 - 1.1 oz.

number of teeth: 16

young: two to six young per litter,
born throughout the year; at least four
litters per year



Habitat

prefer wooded and brushy areas but will live in most habitats

Food

vegetation and animals (omnivore): seeds and other types of vegetation, beetles, moth larvae and spiders

Period of Activity

night (nocturnal)

Gestation Period

three weeks

Age at Maturity

one month

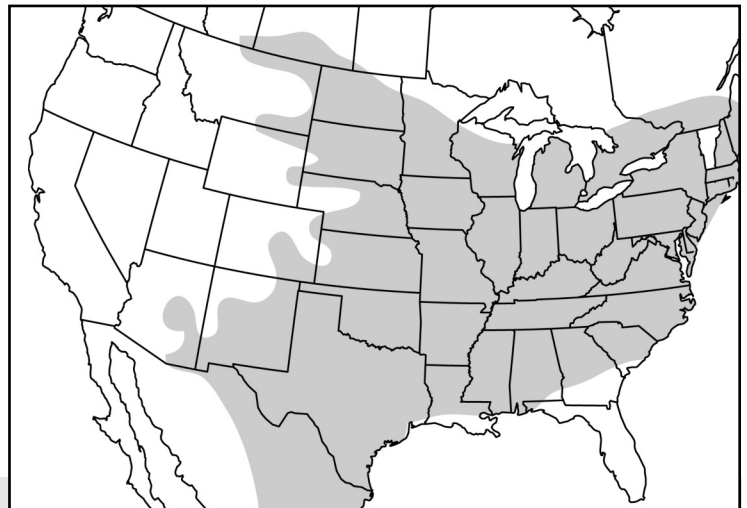
Hibernates?

no

Distribution

Illinois: statewide

U.S. Distribution



White-footed Mouse Trivia

White-footed mice live on the ground in logs and stumps. Since white-footed mice can climb, they often nest in abandoned bird nests in trees and bushes or in cavities in the trunks of trees. Nest cavities are lined with finely shredded plant materials. The opening is hidden. The home range of a white-footed mouse is 0.5 - 1.5 acres. These mice can live for two to three years.

SPECIES SHEET

WHITE-TAILED DEER

Odocoileus virginianus

Statistics

height: 3.0 - 3.5'
weight: males 75 - 300 lbs.; females
50 - 200 lbs.
number of teeth: 32
young: one or two young per year, born in
May or June

Habitat

seek wooded areas for refuge; forage in fields,
pastures and brushy areas

Food

vegetation (herbivore): shoots, twigs, leaves,
grains, grasses and acorns

Period of Activity

night (nocturnal) and twilight hours

Gestation Period

seven months

Age at Maturity

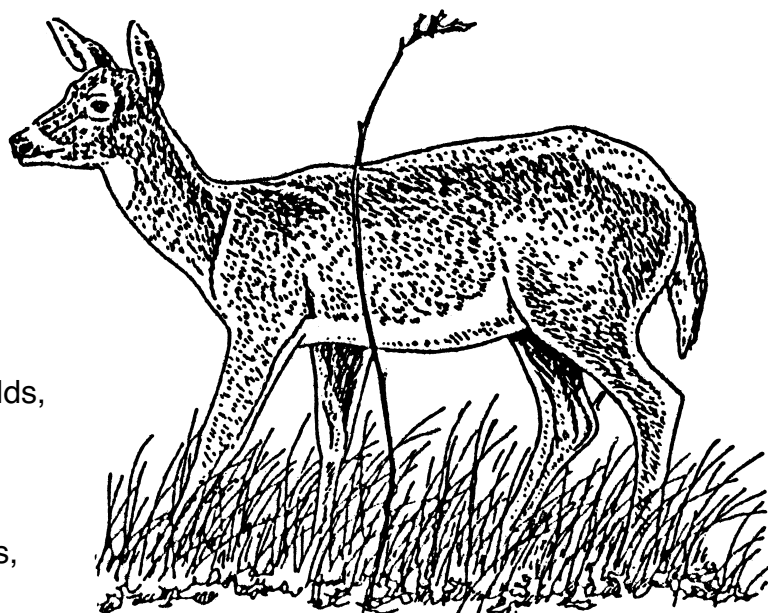
six months

Hibernates?

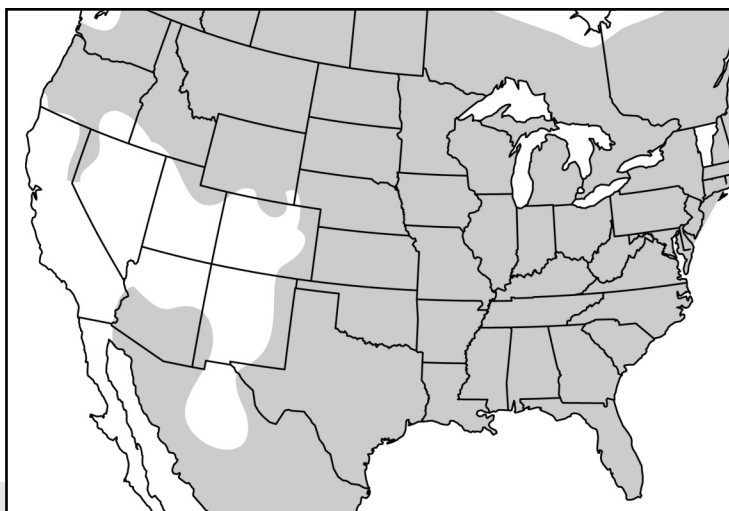
no

Distribution

Illinois: statewide



U.S. Distribution



White-tailed Deer Trivia

The white-tailed deer is the largest Illinois mammal. Deer are in the family of mammals characterized by having hooves, antlers that are shed and replaced annually and a four-chambered stomach, allowing them to chew a cud. Antlers usually are produced only on males. The size of the antler and number of points increase with the deer's age until about five years of age.