

blue-spotted salamander *Ambystoma laterale*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Amphibia

Order: Caudata

Family: Ambystomatidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The blue-spotted salamander averages about four to five and one-half inches in length. It is dark brown, black or blue-black with pale blue specks on the belly and sides. Its head is wider than its neck.

BEHAVIORS

The blue-spotted salamander lives in wooded, swampy areas with sandy soil. This salamander may be found in the northeastern and north central Illinois border counties. It spends much of the year underground, coming out for a few days to reproduce in March or April. Eggs are laid singly or in small clusters and attached to vegetation in water. Eggs hatch in about one month. Transformation to a land animal occurs in late June through mid-August. This salamander eats arthropods (spiders, insects, mites and others) and annelids (earthworms, leeches).

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests

Prairie Habitats

none

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