

## bobcat *Lynx rufus*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Family: Felidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

### FEATURES

The adult bobcat has a head-body length of 25 to 35 inches. Its tail is about five inches long. It weighs 15 to 30 pounds. Its sides and back are a mix of gray, brown and tan with dark streaks and spots. The belly is white or tan with black spots. The tail has a black tip. Its short, pointed ears have tufts of black hair on the tip.

### BEHAVIORS

The bobcat may be found statewide in Illinois. It lives in wooded bluffs, rolling hills with open fields, brushy ravines or bottomland forests. The bobcat is a carnivore that eats cottontails, squirrels, mice and birds. It may eat carrion if other food is not available. It has very acute eyesight and hearing. The bobcat is a good climber. It is mostly nocturnal and solitary. It can hiss, growl, snarl or scream. Mating occurs February through April. Young are born after a gestation period of about two months. Litter size is one or two. Young are able to live on their own at about two months of age.

### HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests; swamps

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; coniferous forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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