

## northern bat *Myotis septentrionalis*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Chiroptera

Family: Vespertilionidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

### FEATURES

The northern bat is a small- to medium-sized bat with a small forearm. Its brown fur is black at the base. The northern bat has a lengthy, pointed tragus in its long ear. Each wing is attached to the side of the foot.

### BEHAVIORS

The northern bat may be found statewide in Illinois. It hibernates in caves, mines and buildings. The largest concentration of wintering northern bats in Illinois is in La Salle County, but other hibernacula are located throughout the state. The bats tend to hang singly or in very small groups. Summer roosting locations include caves, mines, buildings and under tree bark. The northern bat eats insects. Mating occurs in fall and spring. Those females mating in the fall store the sperm in the uterus until spring, when it is used to fertilize the eggs. Females form small maternity colonies after leaving the winter hibernating site. Young are born in June and July. This bat has been known to live for more than 18 years.

### HABITATS

#### Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests; lakes, ponds and reservoirs; marshes; peatlands; rivers and streams; swamps; wet prairies and fens

#### Woodland Habitats

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

#### Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge

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