

Rafinesque's big-eared bat *Corynorhinus rafinesquii*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Chiroptera

Family: Vespertilionidae

ILLINOIS STATUS endangered, native

FEATURES

Rafinesque's big-eared bat has brown-black fur. Its belly fur has white hairs with black roots. It has huge ears (over one inch in length), each with a long and pointed tragus. The ears can be curled when resting or hibernating. Bumps formed by glands can be seen on either side of its nose.

BEHAVIORS

Rafinesque's big-eared bat may be found in the southern one-third of Illinois. It lives in trees, abandoned buildings, mines and caves. Rafinesque's big-eared bat eats insects. It flies late at night and is a fast flyer. This bat hibernates in mines and caves in southern Illinois. In the summer, these bats gather in colonies of less than 30 individuals. Mating occurs in the fall, winter or spring. Those females that mate in the fall or winter store sperm in the uterus until spring, when it is used to fertilize the egg. Young are born in May or June, usually one per female. Young can fly about three weeks after birth. This species is endangered in Illinois and is the rarest bat species in the state.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge

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