

# deer mouse

## *Peromyscus maniculatus*

Kingdom: Animalia  
Division/Phylum: Chordata  
Class: Mammalia  
Order: Rodentia  
Family: Cricetidae

### ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

### FEATURES

The deer mouse's body is about three to four inches long. Its back is brown with a dark stripe down the middle. The belly and feet are white. Its ears are black with white edges. The tail has dark hairs on the top and white ones on the underside. The tail is about as long as the head-body length. This mouse has small back feet. The eyes are large.

### BEHAVIORS

The deer mouse may be found statewide in Illinois. It lives in grasslands, prairies, pastures, barren fields and stubble fields. This rodent is an omnivore that eats insects and the seeds of native and farm plants like corn, soybeans and wheat. It constructs a shallow burrow system or may use the burrows of other small mammals. Family groups are often found in burrows. Breeding occurs year round, and young are born throughout the year. Because this mouse has a short life span, a female rarely gives birth to more than two litters. Litter size ranges from one to nine with an average of about five. Young are born helpless but are ready to live on their own in about four weeks.



### ILLINOIS RANGE



representative specimen

## **Aquatic Habitats**

none

## **Woodland Habitats**

none

## **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

black soil prairie; dolomite prairie; edge; gravel prairie; hill prairie; sand prairie; shrub prairie