**SPECIES SHEET**

**AMERICAN BADGER**

*Taxidea taxus*

**Statistics**
length: head and body 17 - 31”;
tail 4 - 6”
weight: 13 - 26 lbs.
number of teeth: 34
young: one to five young per litter, born in March or April; one litter per year

**Habitat**
open country such as prairies, pastures, brushy fields, alfalfa fields

**Food**
animals (carnivore): thirteen-lined ground squirrels, woodchucks, plains pocket gophers, voles, mice, cottontails, birds

**Period of Activity**
mainly at night (nocturnal) but also in the day (diurnal)

**Gestation Period**
about seven months
(development is delayed after mating)

**Age at Maturity**
about one year

**Hibernates?**
no

**Distribution**
statewide

**U.S. Distribution**

**Badger Trivia**
The badger’s body is broad and flat, and its legs are short and strong. The claws on its front feet are very long. All of these features make badgers powerful diggers. Badgers dig burrows in search of food and then use those burrows for shelter.
Castor canadensis

Statistics
length: head and body 20 - 36”; tail 9 - 15”
weight: 30 - 66 lbs.
number of teeth: 20
young: three or four born in May or June; one litter per year

Habitat
along streams, rivers, ponds and lakes usually with trees in close proximity

Food
vegetation (herbivore): bark of trees and shrubs, leaves, aquatic plants and grasses

Period of Activity
late afternoon and at night (nocturnal)

Gestation Period
105 days

Age at Maturity
two years

Hibernates?
no

Distribution
Illinois: statewide

Beaver Trivia
The beaver is the largest rodent in Illinois. This mammal has a large, flat, paddlelike tail and webbed hind feet that help it swim. The large tail of the beaver may be used to slap the water as a means of communicating with other beavers. Beavers spend most of their time in the water, only coming onto land to rest, rear young and feed. Undoubtedly, the most well-known fact about the beaver is its ability to cut trees which it uses to construct dams and lodges.
**BOBCAT**

*Lynx rufus*

**Statistics**
length: head and body 20 - 39”; tail 4 - 7”
weight: 15 - 22 lbs.
number of teeth: 28
young: one to four born late spring; one litter per year

**Habitat**
wooded or timbered bluffs or rolling hills intermixed with open fields, brushy ravines or open bottom-lands

**Food**
animals (carnivore): cottontails, squirrels, mice and various types of birds

**Period of Activity**
night (nocturnal)

**Gestation Period**
about two months

**Age at Maturity**
one year

**Hibernates?**
no

**Distribution**
Illinois: southern third of the state and sporadically remainder of state

**Bobcat Trivia**
Bobcats were once considered rare in Illinois. They are now common in forested areas in southern Illinois and increasingly so along major river systems in the state. The home range of a bobcat is usually two miles in diameter; however, they have been known to wander as far as 25 - 50 miles.
**SPECIES SHEET**

**COYOTE**

*Canis latrans*

**Statistics**
- length: head and body 28 - 44”;
- tail 11 - 15”
- weight: 20 - 35 lbs.
- number of teeth: 42
- young: six or seven young born in spring; one litter per year

**Habitat**
- various habitats including brushy areas, woodland, wooded bluffs and prairies

**Food**
- animals (carnivore): cottontails, mice, deer, raccoons, various birds, crayfish and grasshoppers

**Period of Activity**
- mainly at night (nocturnal) but also during the day (diurnal)

**Gestation Period**
- two months

**Age at Maturity**
- one or two years

**Hibernates?**
- no

**Distribution**
- Illinois: statewide

**Coyote Trivia**
- The coyote was present before European settlers arrived in Illinois and has increased in numbers since then due to the removal of timber. The coyote travels approximately 10 miles daily in search of food and has been known to travel distances as much as 100 miles. Coyotes can run at speeds more than 40 mph, a speed faster than cars are allowed to travel on most city streets.

**U.S. Distribution**

- Map showing the distribution of coyotes in the United States, with a focus on Illinois as statewide.
**Tamias striatus**

**Statistics**
- length: head and body 5 - 7”; tail 3 - 4”
- weight: 2.8 - 5.3 oz.
- number of teeth: 20
- young: two litters of two to six young born in spring and summer

**Habitat**
- wooded bluffs, ravines and brushy areas in or adjacent to deciduous forests, urban areas

**Food**
- vegetation and animals (omnivore): nuts, seeds, fruits, fungi, flowers, buds, snails, caterpillars and frogs

**Period of Activity**
- day (diurnal)

**Gestation Period**
- one month

**Age at Maturity**
- one year

**Hibernates?**
- no

**Distribution**
- Illinois: statewide

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**Chipmunk Trivia**
Chipmunks spend a considerable amount of time searching for food, which they may store in burrows. Food is carried to the burrow in the cheek pouches inside their mouth. Chipmunks do not store much fat in their body and must awaken often in winter to eat food that is stored in the burrow.

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**U.S. Distribution**
**SPECIES SHEET**

**EASTERN COTTONTAIL (RABBIT)**

*Sylvilagus floridanus*

**Statistics**
- length: head and body 11 - 18”
- tail 2.0 – 2.5”; ears 2.5 - 3.0”
- weight: 2 - 3 lbs.
- number of teeth: 28
- young: four to six young per litter born from March to September; three to seven litters per year

**Habitat**
a variety of cover types including weeds, brush piles, hedges, short grasses and shrubs

**Food**
vegetation (herbivore): grasses, clover, alfalfa, seeds, buds, fruits and bark

**Period of Activity**
early evening to early morning (mostly nocturnal)

**Gestation Period**
one month

**Age at Maturity**
six months

**Hibernates?**
no

**Distribution**
Illinois: statewide

**Cottontail Trivia**
The cottontail has large hind legs that help it hop and run fast. The female cottontail places the blind, helpless newborns in a shallow depression in the ground or a short burrow. These areas are lined with hair and covered with grasses to hide the young when the female is away.
Sciurus niger

Statistics
length: head and body 10 - 16”; tail 8 - 12”
weight: 1.1 - 3.0 lbs.
number of teeth: 20
young: two litters (late winter and summer) of two to four young each

Habitat
lives on the edges of forests and other open woodlands, urban areas

Food
vegetation and animals (omnivore): fruits, buds, seeds, flowers, leaves, fungi and insects

Period of Activity
day (diurnal)

Gestation Period
six weeks

Age at Maturity
one year

Hibernates?
no

Distribution
Illinois: statewide

U.S. Distribution

Fox Squirrel Trivia
Fox squirrels become inactive in winter. A fox squirrel curls up into a ball shape inside of a tree cavity or a leaf nest. Leaf nests are constructed in large trees and often used in habitats where tree cavities are absent. The home range of a fox squirrel is between 10 and 40 acres.
EASTERN RED BAT

Lasiurus borealis

Statistics
length: head and body 2 - 3”; tail 1.8 - 2.0”
weight: 0.25 - 0.60 oz.
number of teeth: 32
young: one to five young born in May or June; one litter per year

Habitat
found in trees, shrubs and weeds, rarely in caves or attics

Food
animals (carnivore): moths, flying ants, leafhoppers, flies and beetles

Period of Activity
night (nocturnal)

Gestation Period
three months

Age at Maturity
one year

Hibernates?
no; migrates south for the winter

Distribution
Illinois: statewide

Red Bat Trivia
Eastern red bats reside in Illinois during spring-summer-fall and migrate south for the winter when their food supply, insects, is not available. There are 12 species of bats found in Illinois, and red bats are one of the more common species. Bats rely on echolocation, or supersonic sounds, to locate objects.
**Statistics**
length: head and body 3 - 4”; tail 0.5 - 1.2”
weight: 0.5 - 1.0 oz.
number of teeth: 32
young: four to seven young per litter born in spring and fall; two to three litters per year

**Habitat**
various habitats (grassy fencerows, open woodlands) but most common in woodlands

**Food**
animals (carnivore): earthworms, slugs, snails, insects, insect larvae and other small animals

**Period of Activity**
day (diurnal) and night (nocturnal)

**Gestation Period**
three weeks

**Age at Maturity**
two months

**Hibernates?**
no

**Distribution**
Illinois: common in the northern two-thirds of the state and less common in southern Illinois

**Shrew Trivia**
Shrews have enormous appetites and are known to eat more than their body weight each day. They use their poisonous saliva to paralyze prey. They are able to produce sounds that humans cannot hear. These sounds help them to move about in their habitat. Shrews are ferocious fighters, protecting their home range (0.5 – 1.0 acre) and food supply.
**PLAINS POCKET GOPHER**

*Geomys bursarius*

**Statistics**
- length: head and body 6 - 9”; tail 2 - 4”
- weight: 0.5 – 1.0 lb.
- number of teeth: 20
- young: three to six young born in spring; one litter per year

**Habitat**
requires well-drained soil with tuberous-rooted plants

**Food**
vegetation (herbivore): roots, stems and leaves

**Period of Activity**
day (diurnal) and night (nocturnal)

**Gestation Period**
one month

**Age at Maturity**
one year

**Hibernates?**
no

**Distribution**
Illinois: narrow band along the Illinois and Kankakee Rivers

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**Pocket Gopher Trivia**
The pocket gopher is a rodent with special adaptations for a fossorial, or underground life. Its front feet are large with a strong claw on each toe to help it dig dirt. Gophers are able to close their mouth behind their incisors, or front teeth, so they can dig with their teeth without getting dirt in their mouth. Areas where pocket gophers live have mounds of dirt at the entrances of their burrows. The burrow system may be as much as 500 feet long.
**PRAIRIE VOLE**

*Microtus ochrogaster*

**Statistics**
length: head and body 3.8 - 5.5”; tail 1.0 - 1.5”
weight: 1.0 - 2.1 oz.
number of teeth: 16
young: three or four young per litter; several litters per year

**Habitat**
variety of grassy areas

**Food**
vegetation (herbivore): clover, alfalfa, grasses and weeds

**Period of Activity**
day (diurnal) and night (nocturnal)

**Gestation Period**
three weeks

**Age at Maturity**
about three weeks

**Hibernates?**
no

**Distribution**
Illinois: statewide

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**Prairie Vole Trivia**
Prairie voles live in an extensive underground burrow system, connected on the surface by runways which can only be seen by parting the vegetation. The average life span of a prairie vole is five to 12 weeks, making it necessary for the species to produce young throughout the year. Prairie voles are a food source for many animals, including hawks, owls, coyotes, foxes and bobcats.
SPECIES SHEET

RACCOON

Procyon lotor

Statistics
length: head and body 19 - 28”; tail 8 - 12”
weight: 12 - 26 lbs.
number of teeth: 40
young: three to four young born in the spring or summer; one litter per year

Habitat
various habitats, always near a permanent source of water

Food
vegetation and animals (omnivore): nuts, berries, grains, seeds, crayfish, fishes, turtles, cottontails, voles and mice

Period of Activity
night (nocturnal)

Gestation Period
two months

Age at Maturity
eight months

Hibernates?
no

Distribution
Illinois: statewide

U.S. Distribution

Raccoon Trivia
The raccoon is an easily recognized mammal having a black-masked face and a ringed tail. Raccoons are good climbers and swimmers. The home range of a raccoon is one to two miles across. Raccoons have become common in urban environments, feeding on garbage and pet food and living in hollow trees and abandoned and occupied homes.
**SPECIES SHEET**

**THIRTEEN-LINED GROUND SQUIRREL**

*Spermophilus tridecemlineatus*

**Statistics**
- length: head and body 5 - 8”; tail 3.0 - 4.5”
- weight: 3.5 - 9 oz.
- number of teeth: 22
- young: six to 10 young born in May or June; one litter per year

**Habitat**
- areas having short vegetation

**Food**
- vegetation and animals (omnivore): grasses, weeds, seeds, grasshoppers, beetles, ants and earthworms

**Period of Activity**
- day (diurnal)

**Gestation Period**
- one month

**Age at Maturity**
- one year

**Hibernates?**
- yes; five or six months of the year

**Distribution**
- Illinois: northern two-thirds of state

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**Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel Trivia**

Thirteen-lined ground squirrels are found in short grassy areas where they are often seen sitting up on their hind legs. These ground squirrels live in burrows which are dug leaving no sign of the burrow except the opening. Three types of burrows are constructed (hiding, nesting and hibernation) with differences in the size and depth of the burrow and type of nest cavity present.
Didelphis virginiana

Statistics
length: head and body 17 - 21”; tail 8.5 - 12.5”
weight: 6 - 12 lbs.
number of teeth: 50
young: seven to 21 young per litter; two litters per year (late February and May or June)

Habitat
various habitats including woodlands, stream corridors, brushy areas and urban areas

Food
vegetation and animals (omnivore): fruit, grain, seeds, insects, birds, eggs, reptiles and earthworms; scavenged material such as garbage, road-killed animals and pet food

Period of Activity
night (nocturnal)

Gestation Period
two weeks

Age at Maturity
nine months to one year

Hibernates?
no

Distribution
Illinois: statewide

Opossum Trivia
The Virginia opossum is the only marsupial in North America. Marsupials are primitive mammals that give birth to immature young. The young crawl into a pouch on the female’s abdomen where they mature. When confronted with a threatening situation, an opossum may play dead, hiss, growl, bare its teeth or run.
**WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE**

*Peromyscus leucopus*

**Statistics**
- length: head and body 3.5 - 4.2”; tail 2.3 - 4.0”
- weight: 0.5 - 1.1 oz.
- number of teeth: 16
- young: two to six young per litter, born throughout the year; at least four litters per year

**Habitat**
prefer wooded and brushy areas but will live in most habitats

**Food**
vegetation and animals (omnivore): seeds and other types of vegetation, beetles, moth larvae and spiders

**Period of Activity**
night (nocturnal)

**Gestation Period**
three weeks

**Age at Maturity**
one month

**Hibernates?**
no

**Distribution**
Illinois: statewide

**U.S. Distribution**

**White-footed Mouse Trivia**
White-footed mice live on the ground in logs and stumps. Since white-footed mice can climb, they often nest in abandoned bird nests in trees and bushes or in cavities in the trunks of trees. Nest cavities are lined with finely shredded plant materials. The opening is hidden. The home range of a white-footed mouse is 0.5 - 1.5 acres. These mice can live for two to three years.
**Species Sheet**

**White-Tailed Deer**

*Odocoileus virginianus*

**Statistics**

- Height: 3.0 - 3.5’
- Weight: Males 75 - 300 lbs.; females 50 - 200 lbs.
- Number of teeth: 32
- Young: one or two young per year, born in May or June

**Habitat**

Seek wooded areas for refuge; forage in fields, pastures and brushy areas

**Food**

Vegetation (herbivore): shoots, twigs, leaves, grains, grasses and acorns

**Period of Activity**

Night (nocturnal) and twilight hours

**Gestation Period**

Seven months

**Age at Maturity**

Six months

**Hibernates?**

No

**Distribution**

Illinois: Statewide

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**White-tailed Deer Trivia**

The white-tailed deer is the largest Illinois mammal. Deer are in the family of mammals characterized by having hooves, antlers that are shed and replaced annually and a four-chambered stomach, allowing them to chew a cud. Antlers usually are produced only on males. The size of the antler and number of points increase with the deer’s age until about five years of age.