evening bat

Nycticeius humeralis

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Mammalia
Order:	Chiroptera
Family:	Vespertilionidae

Features

The evening bat is a medium-sized bat (3 1/2 to 3 3/4 inches with a one to 1 1/2 inch tail) with a brown body. The belly is lighter than the back. The wings and ears are black. Like other bats, the eyes are small. It has a short, curved tragus (membranous projection) in its ear.

Natural History

The evening bat lives in buildings and trees. It eats insects. It flies slowly and begins flying before sunset. It forages along waterways and forest edges, usually near treetop level. The evening bat probably does not hibernate in Iowa, flying further south for hibernation. Adult females arrive in Iowa by mid-May to establish maternity colonies. Young, usually two per female, are born in mid-June to early July. Young can fly about three weeks after birth and attain adult size after about six or seven weeks. No males have been reported in Iowa during the summer, only females.

Habitats

Mississippi River; Missouri River; bottomland forests; interior rivers and streams

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

southern two-thirds of Iowa

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001. *Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.