

## Indiana Bat *Myotis sodalis*

**Habitat Preference:** Need large diameter trees with loose bark; females and young roost under areas of loose bark. They like drainage areas that move into slow moving rivers. Indiana bats like to be close to water for drinking and abundance of insects for food.

### Threats:

- These bats are very colonial which leaves the population vulnerable should something happen to one of their maternal colony or winter roost sites
- Loss of large trees to timber harvests, storm damage, development etc...
- Human disturbance of wintering caves (not found in Iowa)
  - Insulation from gates cause some cave to become uninhabitable
  - Frequenting caves with hibernating bats
- Pesticide use
  - Indiana bats are insectivores and spend their summers feeding around agriculture fields. These bats are at risk of pesticide contamination
  - Contamination of water sources can eliminate local populations of aquatic insects and harm surrounding populations of Indiana bats.



### Appropriate Practices:

- Bat boxes may help to protect maternal colonies using man made structures such as old buildings and in areas where bats are found in high concentrations.
  - Bat boxes will attract the bats out of the structures and spread them out into a larger area. This will prevent impact on the population if there is disturbance on one particular maternal colony.
  - The boxes should be spread out in a 10-15 mile radius from the original site
- Maintain large trees with loose bark and cavities especially along riparian areas
  - If modifications to riparian areas are unavoidable maintain a minimum of 100 feet of natural area along each side of the stream bank.
- Maintain snag trees.
- Reforestation:
  - Plant tree species with loose bark for future Indiana Bat generations.
  - Plant trees in forest openings to reduce habitat fragmentation.
- Reduce insecticide use as Indiana bats are dependent upon insects as a food source.