



SIMPLIFIED KEY TO ARKANSAS CAVE BATS

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This key is intended for the use of the general public and an expert should be consulted for positive identification. Upon observing bats in a cave, care should be taken to be as quiet as possible and to avoid shining lights directly on the bats. Any disturbance during the winter may cause the bats to use valuable fat reserves, reducing their ability to survive until spring. A scientific collection permit from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is necessary to legally handle bats.

- A. Ears very large, more than 1 inch long, and leaf-like. Ears are often curled up when resting or torpid. Belly with pinkish buff hairs.
Corynorhinus townsendii ingens, **Ozark Big-eared Bat**.
Notes: Known from caves year-round in northwest Arkansas. Moth wings below roost are usually a good indicator of summer use by this species. Endangered.
- B. Ears less than 1 inch long.
1. Size large, total length more than 4 inches.
Eptesicus fuscus, **Big Brown Bat**.
Note: Common. Usually roosting singly or in clusters of less than 20 in winter. Dark brown hair.
2. Size small, total length less than 4 inches.
- a. Usually roosting in large clusters (hundreds or thousands).
- i. Hair on back uniform in color; usually gray. Use caves all year.
Myotis grisescens, **Gray Bat**.
Notes: Caves used in summer generally have large accumulations of guano, some caves used intermittently. Endangered.
- ii. Back hairs brown with dark bases. Use caves in winter only.
Myotis sodalis, **Indiana Bat**, or *Myotis lucifugus*, **Little Brown Bat**.
Note: Usually found in cold caves in winter. These species are known to roost together. The Indiana Bat is endangered.
- b. Usually roosting singly or in small clusters (less than 20).
- i. Hair on back pale yellowish to pale reddish brown. Forearms reddish.
Pipistrellus subflavus, **Pipistrelle Bat**.
Note: Small size. Common in caves in winter.
- ii. Hair on back brown or dull yellowish.
- I. Hair on back dull yellowish or grayish brown.
Myotis austroriparius, **Southeastern bat**.
Note: Not known to use caves in Arkansas, but has been seen mines in SW part of state in winter.
- II. Hair on back brown.
- A. Ears more than $\frac{3}{4}$ " long (Would extend slightly past nose if laid flat).
Myotis septentrionalis, **Northern Long-eared Bat**.
Note: Rare. Found in crevices in caves. Winter only.
- B. Ears less than $\frac{3}{4}$ " long.
Myotis leibii, **Small-footed Bat**.
Note: Very rare. In cooler caves from November-March.