

## Western small-footed myotis (*Myotis ciliolabrum*)



### **Taxonomy:**

Family Vespertilionidae. Also called small-footed bat. Closely related to the eastern small-footed myotis (*M. leibii*) with which it was once grouped under the name *Myotis subulatus*. Two subspecies are recognized, including *Myotis ciliolabrum melanorhinus* which occurs along the Wasatch Front.

### **Description:**

Distinguished from most other regional bats by its small size. Most easily confused with the California myotis from which it can be distinguished by its black ears, relatively flattened skull, and glossy pelage.

Total length: 76-90 mm; Tail:32-45 mm; Hind foot: 7-9 mm; Ear: 12-16 mm; Forearm: 30-34 mm; Weight: 2.8-7.1 g.



### **Distribution:**

Found throughout much of the west from the high plains to California and from the Canadian Rockies south to the northern Mexico. A relatively common bat along the Wasatch Front

### **Ecology and diet:**

One of the most common bats of the West, the small-footed myotis mainly occurs in forests but can also be found in desert habitats. They roost singly or in small groups, preferring rock crevices, caves, mines, tree hollows and buildings. They feed on a wide variety of flying insects, often foraging over rocky substrate.

### **Life History:**

As with other myotis, this species mates in the fall, with pregnancy and birth occurring in spring and summer. The single young are weaned at about one month of age. Record life span is 12 years.

**References:** Bogan 1999b; Holloway & Barclay 2001.