

## Little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*)



### **Taxonomy:**

Family Vespertilionidae. Also called little brown myotis. There are six subspecies including the regional form *Myotis lucifugus carissima*.

### **Description:**

This species is distinguishable from other locally occurring species of *Myotis* by its small size, glossy fur, relatively short hind legs and small ear.

Total length: 60-102 mm; Tail: mm; Hind foot: mm; Ear: 11-15; Forearm: 33-41 mm; Weight: 7-13 g.



### **Distribution:**

One of the most widespread bats in North America, occurring from southern Alaska east throughout most of Canada and the US and south to the highlands of central Mexico. Little brown bats are less common than other regional species of *Myotis*.

### **Ecology and diet:**

*Myotis lucifugus* occurs in a variety of habitats over a broad elevation range. They use a wide variety of day roosts, including tree hollows, cliff crevices, caves, mines, and buildings. Hibernacula include caves and mines. They eat a wide variety of insects, but may specialize on mayflies, midges and other aquatic insects found over water and in riparian habitats.

### **Life History:**

Little brown bats mate in late summer at hibernation sites. Females store sperm during hibernation, with ovulation and fertilization delayed till the following spring. Single young are born in the late spring or early summer, and at birth weigh about 25% of the adult body mass.

**References:** Zeveloff 1988; Fenton 1999.