

Long-legged myotis (*Myotis volans*)



Taxonomy:

Family Vespertilionidae. Also called long-legged bat or hairy-winged myotis. Four subspecies are recognized, including the regional form *Myotis volans interior*.

Description:

This species is readily distinguished from other regional bats by its large size, ears that are short and rounded, and relatively dense fur on the underside of the wing membrane which extends to the elbow and knees.

Total length: 76-106 mm; Tail: 29-49 mm; Hind foot: 7-10 mm; Ear: 10-14; Forearm: 35-42 mm; Weight: 5-10 g.



Distribution:

Occurs in much of the West, from the high plains to the Pacific coast, and from southwestern Canada south to central Mexico. The species is relatively uncommon along the Wasatch Front.

Ecology and diet:

Myotis volans is found in mountainous areas of the West, where it occurs over a very broad elevation range. It is most often associated with coniferous forest habitats. These bats use a wide variety of day roosts, including tree hollows, cliff crevices, caves, mines, and buildings. Hibernacula include caves and mines. They forage opportunistically on moths and other flying insects, often over water and riparian vegetation.

Life History:

Long legged myotis mate in late summer. Females store sperm during hibernation, with ovulation and fertilization delayed till the following spring. Young are born in the spring or summer. Maximum recorded life span is 21 years.

References: Czaplewski 1999.