of Utah

ats are the most maligned and misunderstood of all mammals. Negative misconceptions surround bats despite the fact that most people know them only as mysterious fluttering objects observed at dusk on summer evenings. Mysteries aside, bats are fairly innocuous to humans. Bats don't attack people to entangle themselves in their hair; they really aren't interested in people at all. As mammals, they have hair, regulate their body temperatures internally, and nurse their young. Bats are the only mammals that fly, and although they have eyes and see very well, they also have the ability to navigate in the absence of sufficient light by using sonar. This sensory system is known as echolocation. It is this constant reaction to incoming echoes that makes a bat in flight appear to stutter or falter, when in reality bats are superb fliers.

Research is updated frequently, but at latest count, there are 1,466 bat species worldwide, 154 species in North America, and 18 species that reside in Utah. All 18 of Utah's bats eat insects. In fact, these bats are perhaps the most significant predators of night flying insects, giving them an important function in the ecosystem. During the day some bats roost in caverns such as caves and abandoned mines, while others prefer to roost in crevices and hollows of trees. Recent bat research indicates that numbers of some bat species in Utah may be declining, most likely from the loss of their natural roosting habitat. In light of this information, it is important to note that timber harvesting practices and abandoned mine closures can be undertaken in ways that benefit bats. Old and dead trees can be spared on logged sites to allow them to be used as bat roosts, and abandoned mines can be gated to keep people out while allowing bats continued access.

Bats should be admired rather than feared. They are capable of truly acrobatic displays as they forage for insects each night. With a minimum of effort, we can watch bats maneuvering around and over trees in the neighborhood, diving at moths under street lamps, or passing to and fro in the back yard. The emergence of a group of bats from a roost is truly a spectacular sight, with bats flying in close proximity to each other while avoiding collisions with other bats as well as objects in the landscape.



















International









Myotis ciliolabrum

Avg. mass: 4 grams Avg. wingspan: 220 mm

Young per year: 1

Western Small-footed Myotis



Lasionycteris noctivagans

Silver-haired Bat

Avg. mass: 12 grams

Young per year: 2

Avg. wingspan: 290 mm

(Center Image: Pallid Bat with centipede. All photos supplied by J. Scott Altenbach)



Idionycteris phyllotis Allen's Lappet-browed Avg. mass: 11 grams

Avg. wingspan: 330 mm

Young per year: 1



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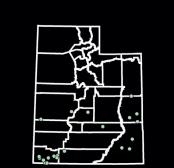








Young per year: 1



Tadarida brasiliensis **Brazilian Free-tailed Bat** Avg. mass: 10 grams Avg. wingspan: 300 mm

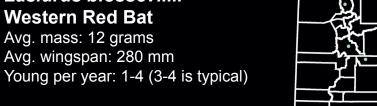
Young per year: 1

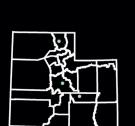












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Eptesicus fuscus

Avg. mass: 17 grams
Avg. wingspan: 340 mm
Young per year: 1 (twins in eastern US)

Big Brown Bat

Corynorhinus townsendii

Townsend's Big-eared Bat

Avg. mass: 11 grams

Young per year: 1

Avg. wingspan: 280 mm







Pipestrellus hesperus **Western Pipestrelle** Avg. mass: 4 grams Avg. wingspan: 200 mm

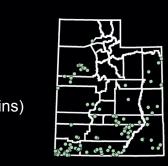


Euderma maculatum **Spotted Bat** Avg. mass: 14 grams Avg. wingspan: 345 mm Young per year: 1



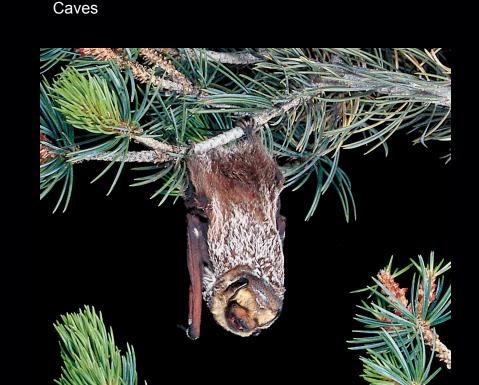
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Antrozous pallidus Pallid Bat (Center Image) Avg. mass: 19 grams Avg. wingspan: 380 mm Young per year: 1-2 (generally twins)



Key To Symbols

			Foo	od Types
			Fine	
	Flying Insects	Ground-dwelling Arthropods		
			Habit	at Types
Pinyon Juniper	Pine, Oak & Aspen	Desert Shrubs	Riparian	All Habitats
Roost Types				
X	**			



Mines & Trees Crevices Cliffs Bridges Buildings

Lasiurus cinereus Hoary Bat Avg. mass: 25 grams Avg. wingspan: 400 mm Young per year: 2

