

Western Bat Working Group

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Species Accounts

Developed For the 1998 Reno Biennial Meeting

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Myotis evotis

LONG-EARED MYOTIS

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I. DISTRIBUTION: *Myotis evotis*, a member of the Family Vespertilionidae, ranges across western North America from southwestern Canada (British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan) to Baja California and eastward in the United States to the western Great Plains.

II. STATUS: Global Rank - G5. State Ranks: AZ - S3; CA - S3S4; CO - S4; ID - S4; MT - S4; NM - S4; NV - S?; OR - S3; TX - SX; UT - S3S4; WA - S3; WY - S4; AL - S2; BC - S4S5. Former category 2 candidate species. Some federal agencies list the species as being of concern; take usually regulated by state permit.

III. IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS AND LIFE HISTORY: *M. evotis* has pale brownish to straw-colored pelage. It is distinguished from *M. auriculus* and *M. thysanodes* by having long (19 to 25 mm), glossy black ears and no distinct fringe of hairs along the edge of the uropatagium. *M. evotis* eats moths and small beetles, as well as flies, lacewings, wasps, and true bugs. In areas where *M. evotis* and *M. auriculus* are sympatric, *M. evotis* tends to eat more beetles. This species is a slow flier and is often described as a hovering gleaner that feeds by eating prey off foliage, tree trunks, rocks, and from the ground. It generally leaves its roost for foraging after dark, but individuals have been caught as early as 0.5 h after sunset. *M. evotis* occurs in semiarid shrublands, sage, chaparral, and agricultural areas, but is usually associated with coniferous forests. Individuals roost under exfoliating tree bark, and in hollow trees, caves, mines, cliff crevices, sinkholes, and rocky outcrops on the ground. They also sometimes roost in buildings and under bridges. During the summer, females form small maternity colonies, whereas males and non-reproductive females roost alone or in small groups nearby. Females give birth to one young in late spring to early summer. Individuals have lived up to 22 years. Presumably, most individuals hibernate during the winter.

IV. THREATS: May be affected by closure of abandoned mines without surveys, recreational caving, some forest-management practices, and activities (such as highway construction, water impoundments, blasting of cliffs for avalanche control) that impact cliff faces or rock outcrops.

V. GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE: Little or no information known on population trends, winter roosting requirements, winter range, importance of snags as summer roosts, and use and acceptance of bat gates. Also more information is needed on foraging requirements.

VI. RELEVANT LITERATURE:

Bogan, M.A. In Press. *Myotis evotis*. In: Mammals of North America, D.E. Wilson, ed. Smithsonian Press, Washington, D.C.

Faure, P.A. and R.M.R. Barclay. 1994. Substrate-gleaning versus aerial-hawking: plasticity in the foraging and echolocation behaviour of the long-eared bat, *Myotis evotis*. *Journal Comparative Physiology* 174:651-660.

Manning, R.W. 1993. Systematics and evolutionary relationships of the long-eared myotis, *Myotis evotis* (Chiroptera:Vespertilionidae). Special Publications, The Museum, Texas Tech University No. 37, 1-58pp.

Manning, R.W. and J.K. Jones, Jr. 1989. *Myotis evotis*. American Society of Mammalogists, Mammalian Species, 329:1-5.

Vonhof, M. J. & Barclay, R. M. R. 1996. Roost-site selection and roosting ecology of forest-dwelling bats in southern British Columbia. Canadian Journal of Zoology, 74:1797-1805.

Vonhof, M. J. and R. M. Barclay 1997. Use of tree stumps as roosts by the western long-eared bat. Journal of Wildlife Management, 61:674-684.

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