

## Western Bat Working Group

<http://www.wbwg.org>

### Species Accounts

Developed For the 1998 Reno Biennial Meeting

Updated at the 2005 Portland Biennial Meeting

### *Myotis septentrionalis*

### NORTHERN MYOTIS

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**I. DISTRIBUTION:** *Myotis septentrionalis*, a member of the Family Vespertilionidae, ranges from British Columbia and Alberta, Canada, eastward to the Atlantic Ocean and southward to Arkansas and Florida. It is primarily an eastern species, but does occur in North Dakota, South Dakota, eastern Wyoming, eastern Nebraska, Kansas, and eastern Oklahoma.

**II. STATUS:** Global Rank - G4. State Ranks: MT - S2; TX - SA; AL - S3; BC - S1S3. Take regulated by permit in some states.

**III. IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS AND LIFE HISTORY:** *Myotis septentrionalis* is a medium-sized bat that has dull, yellowish-brown pelage with pale, grey ventral pelage. This species is similar to *M. lucifugus*, from which it can be distinguished by having ears that extend beyond the tip of the nose when laid forward (ear length: 17-19 mm) and a long, pointed tragus. The calcar often has a slight keel. This species forages at dusk or shortly after sunset with intermittent periods of night roosting and then a second peak of activity just before dawn. It roosts singly or as small groups in buildings, under shingles of buildings, under exfoliating tree bark, and in caves and mines. Occasionally, these bats day roost with other bat species such as *M. lucifugus*, *Eptesicus fuscus*, and *Pipistrellus subflavus*. During autumn, *M. septentrionalis* congregate into groups of a few hundred individuals, and often copulate before they go into torpor. Pregnant females have been recorded in late spring and lactating females were captured as late as mid-August in the Black Hills. Females give birth to one young per year. Individuals have been known to live up to 18.5 years. This species was formerly considered an eastern subspecies of *M. keenii* (*M. keenii septentrionalis*).

**IV. THREATS:** May be affected by recreational caving, closure of abandoned mines without surveys, pest control activities in human structures, and some forest-management practices.

**V. GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE:** No information known about population trends, reproduction, and use and acceptance of bat gates. More information is needed on roosting and foraging requirements.

### VI. RELEVANT LITERATURE:

Sasse, D.B. and P. J. Pekins. 1996. Summer roosting ecology of northern long-eared bats (*Myotis septentrionalis*) in the White Mountain National Forest. Pp. 91-101 in Bats and forests symposium, R.M. R. Barclay and R.M. Brigham, eds. B.C. Ministry of Forests, Research Branch, Victoria, B.C., Working Paper 23/1996.

Cryan, P.M. 1997. Distribution and roosting habits of bats in the southern Black Hills, South Dakota. Unpubl. M. S. Thesis, University of New Mexico, 98 pp.

Jones, J.K. Jr., D.M. Armstrong, R.S. Hoffman, and C. Jones. 1983. Mammals of the Northern Great Plains. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 379pp.

van Zyll de Jong, C.G. 1979. Distribution and systematic relationships of long-eared *Myotis* in western Canada. Canadian Journal Zoology 57:987-994.

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