

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**Animal Abstract**

**Element Code:** AMACC02010

**Data Sensitivity:** Yes

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Lasionycteris noctivagans*

**COMMON NAME:** Silver-haired Bat, Black bat, Silver-black Bat, Silver Bat, Silvery-haired Bat.

**SYNONYMS:** *Vespertilio noctivagans* Le Conte

**FAMILY:** Vespertilionidae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** Le Conte, in McMurtrie, Animal Kingdom Cuvier, 1 (App.): 431, 1831.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** "Eastern United States."

**TYPE SPECIMEN:**

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** This species is monotypic.

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized bat with forearm length of 37-44 mm (1.5-1.8 in) and wingspread of 277-310 mm (11-12 in). Total length is 92-107 mm (3.6-4.2 in). Upper parts are darkish-brown or black with silver tips, underparts slightly lighter, giving a salt and pepper appearance. The tail and wings are dark brown to black in color. Color distinguishes this bat from all others. Ears are short, rounded and naked with a short, blunt tragus. Skull is broad and flat with rostrum markedly broad with reference to braincase.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** Unique coloration. Unlike other bats, fur covers the proximal half of the upper side of the tail membrane. They squeak and chatter at a lower pitch than *Myotis*.

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Black and white photos (Barbour and Davis 1969: P. 107,110; Fig. 57, 58)  
Line drawing (Hall 1981: P. 209)  
Line drawing (Hoffmeister 1986: Pp. 89,90; Fig. 5.31, 5.32)  
Black and white photo (Ingles 1954: P. 68)  
Black and white photo (Kunz 1982: P. 1; Fig. 1)  
Color photo (<http://www.batcon.org/discover/species/Inoctiv.html>)  
Color photo (Wilson 1999)  
Color photo (Harvey et al. 1999)

**TOTAL RANGE:** Throughout most of North America from southeastern Alaska across the southern half of Canada, southward in the United States into Georgia, westward into Arizona, and southward into Mexico.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Eastern Arizona, mostly in the higher mountains. Probably year-round residence in southeastern Arizona and a summer resident farther north.

## **SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**BIOLOGY:** Roosts usually involve crevices in trees, however, during migration, roosts are less carefully selected. They have been recorded to roost in woodpiles, open sheds, outbuildings, garages, and hibernate in New York skyscrapers, warehouses, trees, and ship hulls. More commonly, they roost in the space left under the bark of an exfoliating tree with a large circumference. They prefer roosts that are higher than 33 feet. Typically, roosts alone or in small groups of 2-6; rarely in contact with each other. They fly fairly slowly reaching speeds of only 11.2 mph. Migrating south in the winter, it appears that females will travel further north than the males in the summer. They fly in small groups, and are preyed upon primarily by owls. Their lifespan is at least 12 years.

**REPRODUCTION:** Copulation begins in late September and possibly continues throughout winter. Females store sperm during winter. Ovulation peaks in late April and early May. Gestation takes 50-60 days. The young, usually two, are born blind and naked in June and July. Within a period of 21-36 days, young are able to forage for themselves.

**FOOD HABITS:** Insectivorous, emerging early in the evening to forage. Flies slowly and deliberately. Consumes mostly Tricoptera and Coleoptera, however a variety of other insects are included in their diet. Each individual bat has its own feeding route covering about 46-91 square meters. Forages in or near coniferous and/or mixed deciduous forests.

**HABITAT:** This bat lives in broad-leaved riparian and coniferous woodlands near streams and ponds.

**ELEVATION:** Based on unpublished records in the Heritage Data Management System (AGFD, accessed 2004), elevation ranges from 1,810 to 9,860 ft. (552 – 3,005 m).

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Douglas fir, Engelman spruce, blue spruce, white fir, aspen.

**POPULATION TRENDS:** Population appears to be stable, but fluctuates greatly from year to year in all known localities.

## **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None

**STATE STATUS:**

None

**OTHER STATUS:**

Determined Subject to Special Protection  
(Secretaria de Medio Ambiente 2000)  
[Listed Rare, Secretaria de Desarrollo Social  
1994]

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:** Because this is assumed to be a tree roosting bat, deforestation could be detrimental to this species. Land managers should consider saving corridors of old growth forest, areas with diverse age structure, and maintaining snags. Snags that must be removed should be high-cut leaving potential roost space in 6.5 foot stumps for males. Both snag retention and multi-age forest structure are likely to have major impact on this and many other bat species.

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:** Unknown

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:** Very little is known about the abundance, population dynamics, mortality and survivorship of this bat.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** BLM - Arizona Strip Field Office; NPS - Grand Canyon and Saguaro National Parks, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Chiricahua, Canyon de Chelly, and Wupatki National Monuments; USFS - Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, Coronado, Kaibab, and Tonto National Forests; BIA - Hualapai and San Carlos Reservation; AGFD Chevelon Canyon Ranches; AMNH Southwestern Research Station; Private.

## **SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

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#### MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

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#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

According to Barbour and Davis "This bat is erratic in abundance, being scarce throughout much of its wide range."

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