

# Bats of Florida



Photo by Jerry L.  
Gingerich, D.V.M.

**Common name:** Evening bat

**Scientific name:** *Nycticeius humeralis*

**Family:** Vespertilionidae

**Description:** The fur of the evening bat is usually a dark brown, but may also have a bronze to reddish tint. It has short dark ears and the muzzle is broad, unfurred and nearly black. This species closely resembles the big brown bat, but is smaller in size.

**Wingspan:** 10-11 inches

**Body length:** 1.9-2.6 inches

**Weight:** 0.2-0.4 ounces

**Florida roosting preferences:** Colonial. Colony sizes range from just a few to around seventy or so bats. They roost behind loose bark and the crevices and cavities of dead trees. On a few occasions they have been found in Spanish moss. They also roost in buildings, bridges, the brackets on utility poles, and bat houses.

**Food preferences:** Insectivorous. They feed on beetles, planthoppers, true bugs, flies, mosquitoes, moths, flying termites, flying ants and other insects.

**Reproduction:** Females usually give birth to two pups in late April or May.

**Florida status:** Common.

**Florida range:** Evening bats are common throughout Florida, except the Florida Keys.



Photo by Jerry L.  
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**Common name:** Northern yellow bat

**Scientific name:** *Lasiurus intermedius*

**Family:** Vespertilionidae

**Description:** The northern yellow bat is one of Florida's larger bat species. Its long, thick fur varies in color from yellowish- to grayish-brown. This enables it to be well camouflaged in its preferred roost habitat of dead palm fronds.

**Wingspan:** 14-16 inches

**Body length:** 2.8-2.8 inches

**Weight:** 0.5-1.1 ounces

**Florida roosting preferences:** Solitary. Roosts primarily in the dead palm fronds of sabal palms, but occasionally roosts in Spanish moss. The practice of trimming dead palm fronds in urban areas destroys habitat for this species.

**Food preferences:** Insectivorous. Feeds on beetles, flies, damselflies, leafhoppers, flying ants, and other insects. Often seen foraging around streetlights.

**Reproduction:** Females give birth to one to four pups in late May through June.

**Florida status:** Common.

**Florida range:** Found throughout the state, except the Florida Keys.

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Photo by Jerry L.  
Gingerich, D.V.M.

**Common name:** Seminole bat

**Scientific name:** *Lasiurus seminolus*

**Family:** Vespertilionidae

**Description:** The fur of the Seminole bat is a rich mahogany color. On some individuals the tips of the fur are white, giving them a slightly frosted appearance. A patch of white fur is often found on the shoulders and wrists. Seminole bats are closely related to the eastern red bat and are very similar in appearance.

**Wingspan:** 11-13 inches

**Body length:** 1.8-2.7 inches

**Weight:** 0.3-0.5 ounces

**Florida roosting preferences:** Solitary. Commonly roosts in pine trees and Spanish moss.

**Food preferences:** Insectivorous. Feeds on moths, beetles, true bugs, flies, and other insects. Can be seen foraging for insects around streetlights.

**Reproduction:** Females usually give birth to three or four pups, but may give birth to one or two. The young are normally born in mid-May through mid-June.

**Florida status:** Common.

**Florida range:** Found throughout the state, except the Florida Keys.



Photo by Jerry L.  
Gingerich, D.V.M.

**Common name:** Brazilian free-tailed bat

**Scientific name:** *Tadarida brasiliensis*

**Family:** Molossidae

**Description:** The short fur varies in color from dark brown to grayish-brown. Like other bats in the family Molossidae the tail extends well beyond a short tail membrane. The upper lips have vertical wrinkles. Long stiff hairs protrude from the toes and extend beyond the claws. The Brazilian free-tailed bat has a scent gland that emits a musky odor. A colony of these bats can be recognized from a distance by the odor alone. The odor is often mistakenly thought to come from the bat guano.

**Wingspan:** 11-13 inches

**Body length:** 2.2-2.9 inches

**Weight:** 0.4-0.5 ounces

**Florida roosting preferences:** Colonial. This species forms large colonies ranging from a few hundred to several thousand. It roosts almost totally in man-made structures, primarily, buildings and bridges. It particularly likes to roost under barrel tile roofs. This is the most likely species to move into bat houses in Florida.

**Food preferences:** Insectivorous. Feeds on moths, flies and beetles.

**Reproduction:** Females give birth to a single pup, in early June.

**Florida status:** Common. This is likely Florida's most abundant bat.

**Florida range:** The Brazilian free-tailed bat is found throughout Florida, except the Florida Keys.

**Note:** This species is commonly referred to as the Mexican free-tailed bat in the western United States.

Information obtained  
from Florida Bat  
Conservancy

[www.floridabats.org](http://www.floridabats.org)

# Bats of Florida



Photo by Jerry L.  
Gingerich, D.V.M.

**Common name:** Eastern Pipistrelle

**Scientific name:** *Pipistrellus subflavus*

**Family:** Vespertilionidae

**Description:** The eastern pipistrelle is Florida's smallest bat species. Its fur varies in color from silvery-gray to grayish-yellow to light brown. The pinkish color of the skin on its forearms contrast sharply with the dark, nearly black, color of the wing membranes. The ears are relatively long.

**Wingspan:** 8-10 inches

**Body length:** 1.4-2.0 inches

**Weight:** 0.2-0.3 ounces

**Florida roosting preferences:** Colonial/Solitary. Usually roosts singly or in small groups. Roost habitat includes caves, tree foliage, tree cavities, rock crevices, Spanish moss, and occasionally buildings.

**Food preferences:** Insectivorous. Feeds on small moths, flies, mosquitoes, leafhoppers, flying ants, and small beetles.

**Reproduction:** Females usually give birth to two pups during May or June.

**Florida status:** Uncommon.

**Florida range:** Although not considered abundant, they are found throughout Florida, except the Florida Keys.



Photo by Ralph Arwood

**Common name:** Florida bonneted bat

**Scientific name:** *Eumops floridanus*

**Family:** *Molossidae*

**Description:** This is Florida's largest bat. Its fur ranges in color from dark gray to brownish-gray. As with other bats in the family Molossidae its tail extends well beyond a short tail membrane. It has large broad ears that slant forward over the eyes from which it gets the common name of "bonneted bat."

**Wingspan:** 19-21 inches

**Body length:** 3.3-4.3 inches

**Weight:** 1.2-1.7 ounces

**Florida roosting preferences:** Colonial. Roosts in cliff crevices, tree cavities and buildings. In 2003 a small colony was found roosting in a bat house in Fort Myers.

**Food preferences:** Insectivorous. Known to feed on beetles, flies and true bugs.

**Reproduction:** Females give birth to a single pup, but may have more than one reproductive cycle per year. Pups are born during the summer from June through September.

**Florida status:** Rare. Classified as Endangered by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

**Florida range:** Southern portion of Florida, excluding the Florida Keys

**Note:** Previously known as Wagner's mastiff bat (*Eumops glaucinus floridanus*) but was reclassified in 2004 as a separate species unique to Florida.

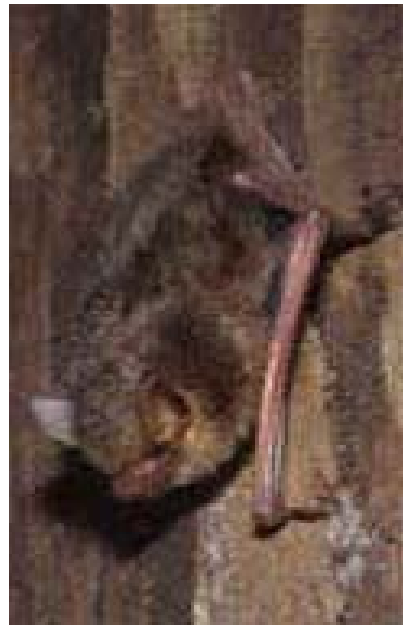
# *Bats of Florida*



**Evening Bat**



**Northern Yellow Bat**



**Eastern Pipistrelle Bat**



**Brazilian free-tailed bat**



**Seminole Bat**



**Florida  
Bonneted Bat**