

Long-eared myotis (*Myotis evotis*)



Taxonomy:

Family Vespertilionidae. Also called long-eared bat and little big-eared bat. Six subspecies are recognized including *Myotis evotis evotis* which occurs in the region.

Description:

Distinguished from other regional bats by its large ears and brown color.

Total length: 81-100 mm; Tail: 35-49 mm; Hind foot: 7-10 mm; Ear: 18-22 mm; Forearm: 36-41 mm; Weight: 5-8 g.



Distribution:

Western US from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific, and adjacent areas in southwestern Canada. Common along the Wasatch Front.

Ecology and diet:

The long-eared myotis is one of the more common bats found in the western United States, occurring throughout Nevada. It is principally associated with coniferous forest, but may also occur in arid plant communities at lower elevations. These bats roost singly or in small groups in tree hollows, rock outcrops, caves, abandoned mines and buildings.

They forage over water and dense vegetation, and are thought to “glean” insects from vegetation rather than foraging strictly on flying prey. Their diet includes a high percentage of beetles, but they also consume moths and other insects.

Life History:

Mating occurs in the fall, females store sperm during the winter, and ovulation and fertilization occurs in spring. Females may form small maternity colonies. Births of single young occur in late spring or early summer, and offspring are independent by mid-summer. Bats of this species have lived as long as 22 years.

References: Manning & Jones 1989; Bogan 1999.