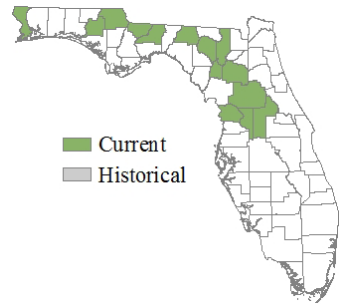


SOUTHEASTERN BAT

Myotis austroriparius

Order: Chiroptera
Family: Vespertilionidae
FNAI Ranks: G4/S3
U.S. Status: none
FL Status: none



Description: A small (3.2 - 3.8 in. = 84 - 99 mm) bat with short, thick, woolly, dull-brown fur. Individual hairs are lighter at the base. Forearm length is 1.4 - 1.6 in. (35 - 40 mm). Toes have hairs extending beyond the tips of the claws. Calcar (modified toe that supports the tail membrane) has no keel (ridge).

Similar Species: Mexican free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) has a tail that extends well beyond the tail membrane. Little brown myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*) has long, silky fur. Indiana bat (*M. sodalis*) has a keeled calcar. Gray bat (*M. grisescens*) has a forearm greater than 1.6 in. (41mm) and has unicolor fur. Evening bat (*Nycticeius humeralis*) has reddish-brown fur and a short, curved tragus (a lobe extending upward in the opening of the ear) versus a short, rounded tragus of southeastern bat.

Habitat: Roosts in caves, culverts, bridges, and hollow trees and occasionally in houses. Forages principally over creeks, rivers, and lakes. Will also forage in flatwoods and along the edges of hammocks.

Seasonal Occurrence: Emerges from winter roosts during warm periods.

Florida Distribution: The northern half of Florida south to Manatee County along the Gulf coast and to Volusia County on the Atlantic coast.

Range-wide Distribution: Mississippi Valley from southern Illinois and Indiana south to Louisiana, eastern Texas, and southeastern Oklahoma; eastward across northern Florida and the Coastal Plain of Georgia and South Carolina.

Conservation Status: Only a few protected occurrences on public conservation lands: Florida Caverns State Park, Suwannee River State Park, Judges Cave Wildlife and Environmental Area, and Withlacoochee State Forest. Several other caves need protection to maintain their bat populations.

Protection and Management: Maintain forested communities along corridors to open-water foraging areas.

References: Brown 1997, Humphrey 1992, Rice 1957, Whitaker 1996

Southeastern Bat

Myotis austroriparius



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