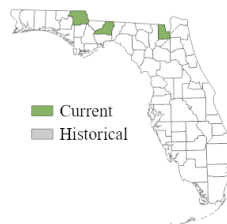


GRAY BAT

Myotis grisescens

Order: Chiroptera
Family: Vespertilionidae
FNAI Ranks: G3G4/S1
U.S. Status: Endangered
FL Status: Endangered



Description: Small bat (3 - 3.5 in. = 80 - 96 mm total length) with unicolor gray dorsal fur that may fade to chestnut in early summer. Forearm length is 1.6 - 1.8 in. (41 - 46 mm). Calcar (cartilage extending from the foot along the base of the tail membrane) has no keel (ridge).

Similar Species: Distinguished from evening bat (*Nycticeius humeralis*) and all other *Myotis* in Florida by unicolor hairs and forearm length greater than 1.6 in. (41mm). Mexican free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) has a tail that extends well beyond the tail membrane.

Habitat: Roosts in caves almost exclusively. Forages over creeks, rivers, and lakes surrounded by forested communities.

Seasonal Occurrence: Generally migrates north during the fall to cold caves to hibernate; few individuals overwinter in Florida caves.

Florida Distribution: This species is only established in Jackson County, although it has occasionally been found in other places in northern Florida.

Range-wide Distribution: Outside Florida, found principally in Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Missouri.

Conservation Status: Protected at only one of the three most important maternity colonies in Florida (Judges Cave Wildlife and Environmental Area). At least one other cave of lesser importance is protected at Florida Caverns State Park; other caves are protected at the park, but are not used by gray bats.

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

Gray Bat

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References: Brady et al. 1982, Brown 1997, Harvey 1992, Humphrey (ed.) 1992.



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