

RAFINESQUE'S BIG-EARED BAT

Corynorhinus rafinesquii



Order: Chiroptera

Family: Vespertilionidae

FNAI Ranks: G3G4/S1

U.S. Status: none

FL Status: none

Description: A medium-sized (3.6 - 4.1 in. = 92 - 106 mm) bat with very long ears that extend to the center of the back when laid down. Two large, glandular lumps on nose. Fur is long, silky, and bicolored (gray above black on the back, and white above black on the belly). Forearm length is 1.6 - 1.7 in. = 40 - 46 mm (BCI 2013).

Similar Species: Long ears distinguish this species from all other Florida bats (Humphrey 1992).

Habitat: Forested communities, particularly those associated with floodplains, supporting large, hollow trees used for roosting; also pine flatwoods and mixed oak-pine forests. Often roosts in old buildings and culverts.

Seasonal Occurrence: Unknown whether this species migrates. Different roost sites are chosen for different times of year and weather conditions (BCI 2013).

Florida Distribution: Occurs in at least 28 counties throughout Florida (Smith et al. 2018).

Range-wide Distribution: Southeastern U.S., including southern Indiana east to southern Virginia and North Carolina, and southwest to Arkansas and eastern Texas (BCI 2013).

Conservation Status: Declining throughout its range (BCI 2013). Known from 28 counties in Florida (Smith et al. 2018), at least four of which are on public or private conservation lands. This is a Species of Greatest Conservation Need by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Protection and Management: Do not cut mature hardwoods, especially trees that may be hollow. Maintain forested communities near water bodies such as creeks, rivers and lakes. Maintain condition of abandoned structures that are known sites for roosting. Install artificial bat houses (Finn 1998) and cut portals into naturally hollow trees (Richardson 2007) to increase available roosting habitat. Do not use pesticides within 5 km of colonies to protect moth

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populations.

References: BCI 2013, Brown 1997, Harvey 1992, Humphrey (ed.) 1992, Smith et al. 2018, Whitaker 1996.



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