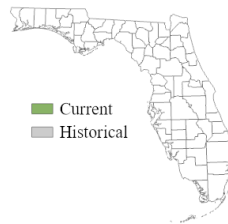


TRICOLORED BAT

Perimyotis subflavus

Order: Chiroptera
Family: Vespertilionidae
FNAI Ranks: G3G4/S2S3
U.S. Status: none
FL Status: none



Description: Formerly called the eastern pipistrelle, this diminutive bat measures around 3.5 inches and is the smallest bat in the eastern United States. The tricolored fur with a dark base, yellowish midsection, and dark tip is diagnostic. The overall color is yellow-tan with a harlequin appearance. The forearm skin is reddish, contrasting with a black membrane.

Similar Species: The small size and three-colored hairs distinguish the aptly named tricolored bat from *Myotis* bats, which lack tricolored hairs. A heart-shaped face also separates tricolored bat from similar species. Tricolored bat has a blunt tragus (a lobe that extends upward in the opening of the bottom of the ear) and a calcar (modified toe that supports the tail membrane) that is not keeled or ridged.

Habitat: Roosts in mature hardwood forests, caves, and manmade structures. Forages over openings and water such as agricultural fields and streams.

Seasonal Occurrence: Active most of the year in Florida. Young, typically two, are born in May or June. Often uses different roosting and hibernation sites.

Florida Distribution: Throughout Florida except for the Florida Keys, although perhaps more common in the northern half of the state, including the Panhandle (Jennings, 1958: Maps 9 and 10).

Range-wide Distribution: Eastern Texas north to Minnesota and east to Nova Scotia and into eastern Central America.

Conservation Status: White-nose syndrome (WNS) has decimated the tricolored bat population in the northeastern United States. Its small body size, long hibernation period, and perhaps indirectly, its solitary hibernation behavior may all contribute to an increased vulnerability to WNS. Listed as Vulnerable by IUCN

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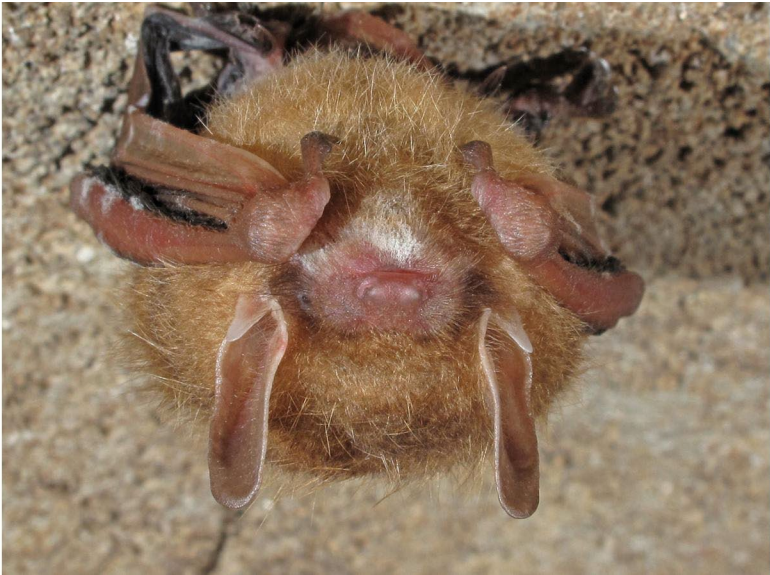
Red List as of February 2018, up from its previous listing as Least Concern in 2008. A potential and pessimistic outcome of a continued impact of WNS on the tricolored bat population is projected to result in a 60% population decline and would elevate the listing to Endangered. NatureServe has elevated its Global Status rank for tricolored bat from G3 in 2012 to G2G3 (Imperiled) as of 2016 and its National Status rank from N2N3 in 2015 to N1N2 (Critically Imperiled) in 2018. WNS has not reached Florida as of 2018 but has spread to Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia.

Protection and Management: Identification and protection of roost sites and foraging habitat by appropriate means, including acquisition and conservation easements should be reviewed regularly. Precautions to prevent the spread of white-nose syndrome, which they are particularly susceptible to, are of paramount importance even though it is not yet known to be in Florida. 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 and cut portals into naturally hollow trees to increase available roosting habitat. Do not use pesticides within 5 km of colonies to protect moth populations.

References: Alves et al. 2014, Center for Biological Diversity 2016, Jennings 1958, National Audubon Society 1996, NatureServe 2019, Solari 2018, USFWS-whitenosesyndrome.org.

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