

A New Saskatchewan Bat

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SMALL-FOOTED MYOTIS

Photo by F. W. Lahrman.

The Small-footed Myotis (*Myotis subulatus*), hypothetical for the province on the basis of a record in south-eastern Alberta, can now be added to the Saskatchewan faunal list. One of the three bats obtained by Albert S. Swanston and Bruce A. McCorquodale on July 12, 1958, in the South Saskatchewan River valley north of Stewart Valley has been identified as this species. Confirmation of this identification and subspecific determination as *M. s. subulatus* (Say) was kindly made by Dr. R. L. Peterson, Curator, Department of Mammalogy, Royal Ontario Museum. The other two bats were a Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) and a Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*): all three bats were found in the crevices of sandstone rocks which were being split open in the course of a search for fossils.

The present record brings the total list of Saskatchewan bats to seven; the others are: Keen's Myotis (*Myotis keenii*), Silver-haired Bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*), Red Bat (*Lasiurus borealis*), and Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*).

Myotis subulatus has been known variously as the Masked Bat, Say Masked Bat, and Least Myotis. The name Small-footed Myotis has been adopted as a common name for the species by a special committee of mammalogists (E. R. Hall *et al*, 1957. Vernacular names for North American Mammals north of Mexico. University of Kansas Misc. Publication No. 14:1-16). The Small-footed Myotis is generally slightly smaller and has a much smaller foot than the common Little Brown Bat. It has long silky hair which is pale yellowish-brown and it has a rather distinct black face and ears, which give it a masked appearance. The species ranges from southern Texas to California, to southern B.C. and Alberta and now Saskatchewan. A disjunct population (and a different subspecies) occurs in the eastern United States and it has been found in Ontario and Quebec. *Myotis subulatus subulatus* occurs on the arid plains from Kansas and south-eastern Colorado north to south-eastern Alberta and south-western Saskatchewan (Anderson, R. M., 1946. Catalogue of Canadian recent mammals; and others).