

SOME WESTERN CANADIAN BAT RECORDS

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Considerable numbers of bats from western Canada are submitted annually for rabies diagnosis to the Animal Diseases Research Institute (Western) at Lethbridge. Since 1973 most of these bats have been identified. In 1972 a bat research program was initiated by the Alberta Department of Agriculture and the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Alberta Department of Lands and Forests (now Recreation, Parks and Wildlife). Discussed here are occurrences of interest in determining distribution of bat species which have been discovered in the course of these activities. Specimens of unusual interest were placed in the Provincial Museum of Alberta or the National Museum of Natural Sciences.

Species Accounts

LONG-EARED MYOTIS — The only published record of *Myotis evotis* from the plains of Alberta is of a specimen taken 9.6 km west of Rumsey.^{1 8} We have captured 31 long-eared myotis at this location where it appears to be the most abundant bat species. As well a maternity colony of 10 to 15 adults, known to have been active since before 1972, is located in an attic in the hamlet of Hesketh. The attic is unheated and better ventilated than those colonized by little brown and big brown bats with which we are familiar. These occurrences and those from similar areas of Saskatchewan suggest that this species is likely a wide spread resident of arid river valleys of southern Alberta and Saskatchewan.^{3 6}

LONG-LEGGED BAT — In Alberta *Myotis volans* is recorded from Henry House and Dried Meat Lake.^{1 8} Soper predicted the occurrence of the species in the Milk River Valley.⁸ We

now have an adult male and an adult female netted July 4, 1976 under a yard light near the Milk River immediately east of Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park. The female was not pregnant or lactating.

SMALL-FOOTED BAT — Alberta records of *Myotis leibii* are from the Red Deer River near Rumsey, Munson and Jenner; and the Milk River 25.6 km west of Wildhorse.^{2 8} We have 11 captures at the Rumsey location, as well as captures in Dinosaur Provincial Park on Sand and Berry Creeks. Specimens are available from Drumheller, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge. As suggested by Jones this bat appears to be widely distributed in southern Alberta.²

HOARY BAT — Seventeen *Lasiurus cinereus* have been submitted for rabies examination from Alberta since 1974, only one of these was an adult male. Although Soper indicates that this species occurs throughout the wooded area of the province records are lacking for much of this area.⁸ Specimens from Grimshaw and Beaverlodge are the first from the Peace River region. In addition hoary bats were collected from Seven Persons, Olds, Willow Creek Provincial Park, Picture Butte, Drumheller, Lethbridge, Skiff, and Rosedale all in the plains region of Alberta.

Nero and Maher report parturition dates of June 24, and June 25 or 26, respectively for hoary bats from Saskatchewan.^{5 4} A female carrying in flight a male and female young was captured during daylight June 1, 1976 in Tisdale, Saskatchewan. The young appeared to be less than a week old.

A slightly earlier birth date is suggested by a specimen taken July 10, 1975 in Drumheller, Alberta. The



Hoary Bat

Lorne Scot

young bat, which appears sufficiently developed to be volant, was reported to have fallen off the back of a flying animal, thought to be a bat, during daylight.

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