

LITTER SIZE AND NURSERY SITES OF THE HOARY BAT NEAR DELTA, MANITOBA

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Three, and possibly four, female hoary bats (*Lasiurus cinereus*), each with two young, were found in 1977 roosting in trees on the forested beach ridge which separates Lake Manitoba and the Delta Marsh, Manitoba. All bats were found just west of the University of Manitoba Field Station (Delta Marsh), about 5 km west of Delta, Manitoba. These observations add to the scanty knowledge of the timing of parturition and nursery site selection in this species.

Each female gave birth to two young, probably at the sites described in Table 1. The mean distance between the roosting bats was 113 m (extremes, 22 and 133 m). Parturition occurred relatively high in trees that bordered

the north side of clearings in the ridge forest. This habitat is similar to that selected by hoary bats elsewhere.⁴ The sites were mid-way on the ridge between Lake Manitoba and the Delta Marsh. When found, the young possessed thick silvery-gray hair on their dorsal surfaces and were probably less than a week old.³ The second female remained, with her two young clinging to her, at the same site on a branch for at least 11 days.

The young, nearly always two, are generally born from mid- to late June, apparently throughout its breeding range.² Parturition in the females I observed in Manitoba fell within this period. In adjacent Saskatchewan, parturition in hoary bats has been

Table 1. LITTER SIZES AND NURSERY SITES OF THE HOARY BAT, DELTA BEACH RIDGE, MANITOBA, 1977.

Tree species	Height of bat (m)	Tree height (m)	Bat height relative to tree height (%)	Side of tree	Distance from Lake Manitoba (m)	Litter size
MM	5.7 ^b	8.1	70.4	S	49	2
GA	6.0 ^c	8.4	71.4	W	57	2
GA	8.3 ^d	9.5	87.4	S	37	2
PW	10.5 ^e	11.1	95.5	S	45	2
Mean	7.6	9.3	81.2		47	2.0

^aMM: Manitoba maple (*Acer negundo*); GA: green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*); PW: Peachleaf willow (*Salix amygdaloides*).

^bThis female was found on June 19, and brought, with her young, into a laboratory; it was returned the next day to the same tree. Their departure by June 21 was probably due to this disturbance.

^cFound on June 19, departed by July 1.

^dFound June 20, departed by June 26.

^eFound July 1, departed by July 3. Possibly one of the others that had moved.



Head detail of Hoary Bat

Lorne Scott

observed on June 24 and 25 or 26.^{6 7}

The hoary bats observed here constitute the first published records from the Delta Marsh area, although its occurrence there is expected.^{1 5 8 9}

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²BARBOUR, R. W., and W. H. DAVIS. 1969. Bats of America. University of Ken-

tucky Press, Lexington, 286 pp.

³BOGAN, M. A. 1972. Observations on parturition and development in the hoary bat, *Lasiurus cinereus*. Jour. Mamm. 53:611-614.

⁴CONSTANTINE, D. G. 1966. Ecological observations on lasiurine bats in Iowa. Jour. Mamm. 47:34-41.

⁵HOCHBAUM, P. W. 1971. The Delta Marsh. Manitoba Department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management, Conservation Extension Branch. 52 pp.

⁶MAHER, W. J. 1972. Hoary bat parturition date and captivity record. Blue Jay 30:236-237.

⁷NERO, R. W. 1958. Hoary bat parturition date. Blue Jay 16:130-131.

⁸SOPER, J. D. 1961. Mammals of Manitoba. Can. Field-Nat. 75:171-219.

⁹TAMSITT, J. R. 1962. Mammals of the Delta Marsh region of Lake Manitoba, Canada. Can. Field-Nat. 76:71-78.