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# URTH RED BAT FOUND IN BERTA

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e Red Bat is widely distributed in atchewan and provinces east. Their e extends southward through the d States, and into Argentina and in South America.[1,2] However, only ed observations of this species have been reported from Alberta and British Columbia.[1,3] Hugh Smith, curator of mammalogyat the Provincial Museum of Alberta, reported that four Red Bat specimens had been collected in Alberta by 1982.[4] In fact only three individuals

were on record by this time (H.C. Smith, pers. comm.). Because so few Red Bats have been seen west of Saskatchewan, all findings should be reported in order to better understand the distribution range of this species. Here is a report of the fourth record of a Red Bat found in Alberta, a summary of information collected on previous specimens from Alberta (Table 1), and a brief description of some aspects of the biology of this species.

Because they roost almost exclusively in trees, Red Bats are generally found near forests, or shade trees.[1,2] The Red Bat is a strong-flying, migratory species, and consequently its breeding range is difficult to delineate.[1,2] Segregation of the migration times between sexes has been noted, and may suggest different summer and winter ranges between males and females.[3-5]

The remains of an adult male Red Bat were found in Writing-On-Stone Provincial Park near Milk River, Alberta (49° 05'N, 111° 37'W) on 23 August 1987. This find constitutes the fourth specimen recorded in this province. I had been mist-netting for bats in a variety of habitats in and near the park between 4 May and 20 August, 1987. Although I captured a total of 317 bats of six different species during this time, no Red Bats were caught. Trees are relativley sparse in this region of Alberta. However, isolated areas where trees are found, such as in the park and along the Milk River Valley, may serve as stop-over points for bats migrating south.

The body of the bat had been partly consumed, perhaps by a raptor (see 1,2), but the distinct pelage permitted identification of sex and species. Males are generally yellowish-red or orange in colour, and are usually more brightly coloured than females.[1] The age of the bat (adult versus juvenile) was distinguished by examining its "finger" joints for ossification. Juvenile bats have unossified epiphyses at the metacarpal-phalar al joints, unlike the specimen collecte

The specimen is now in the Museu of Zoology at the University of Cal ry [catalogue no. UCMZ(M) 1987.18].

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