

A TRUE ALBINO LITTLE BROWN BAT, *MYOTIS LUCIFUGUS*, FROM SASKATCHEWAN

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True albinism, where there is a complete lack of melanin pigmentation so the skin is clear, hair white, and eyes pink has been noted in bats, although only rarely.¹ To our knowledge there are only three records of albinism in Little Brown Bats (*Myotis lucifugus*), perhaps the most common bat in North America.³ Only one of these records is from Canada.^{2,4} The description of a bat caught in 1980 in Alberta notes that it was a "true" albino in that the pelage,

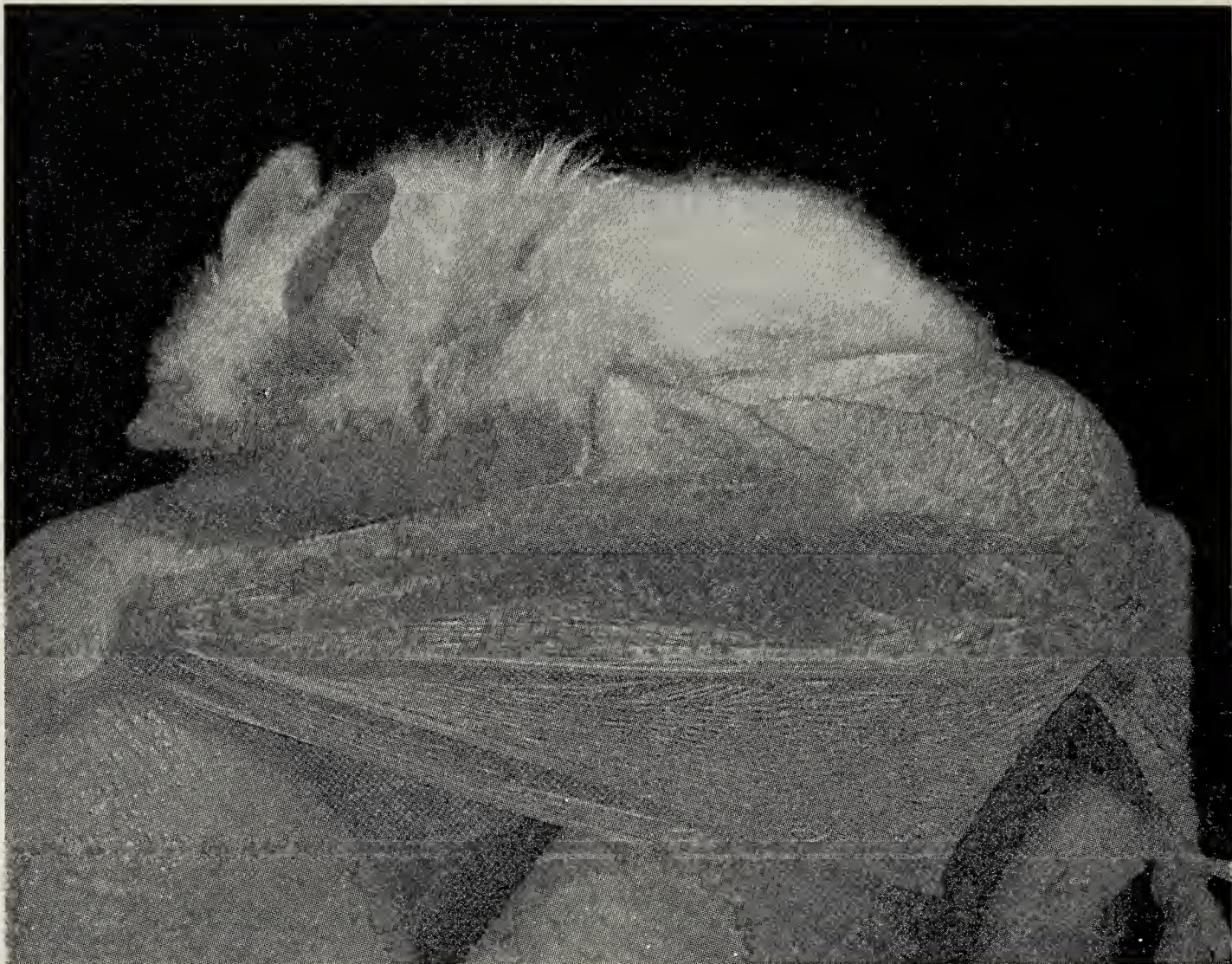
flight membranes and ears were all white without any indication of dark pigmentation.² However, due to the condition of the specimen, it was not possible to examine the eyes and determine if they were pink. The other two specimens were not "true" albinos, having significant amounts of pigmentation.⁴

Here we describe the first complete record of a "true" albino Little Brown Bat. The female bat was



Albino Myotis lucifugus.

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caught at approximately 2130 h on 16 June 1993 in Moose Mountain Provincial Park, Saskatchewan. Specifically, the bat was caught in a mist net set approximately 100 m from, but parallel to, the shore of Kenosee Lake and about 50 m from the recreation hall building. Two other normally pigmented Little Brown Bats (one pregnant female and one adult male) were captured at the same time as the albino.

The bat was a "true" albino as there was no evidence of any pigmentation and the eyes were pink. Gentle palpation of the abdomen indicated that the bat was pregnant with one young, indicating that it had successfully hibernated over at least one winter and was reproductively capable. The canines showed virtu-

ally no evidence of wear, suggesting that the bat was relatively young. The bat had a forearm length of 39.3 mm. It was banded on the right forearm with a green plastic split ring (#443) and released.

1. QUAY, W.B. 1970. Integument and derivatives. Pp. 1-56, *in* Biology of bats. W. A. Wimsatt, ed. Vol. 2. Academic Press, New York. 447 pp.
2. SMITH, H.C. 1982. An albino Little Brown Bat, *Myotis lucifugus*, from Alberta. *Can. Field-Nat.* 96:217.
3. VAN ZYLL DE JONG, C.G. 1985. Handbook of Canadian mammals. 2. Bats. Nat. Mus. Natural Sciences. 212 pp.
4. WALLEY, H.D. 1974. Albino Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) from Wisconsin, with remarks on other aberrant bats. *Can. Field-Nat.* 88:80-81.