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## Tri-colored Bat

- **Scientific Name:** *Perimyotis subflavus*
- **Weight:** 5-8 grams
- **Wingspan:** 21-26centimeters
- **Distribution:** Most of the eastern United States, southeastern Canada, and southward through eastern Mexico to Central America.
- **Ecology and Behavior:** Caves, mines, and rock crevices are used as hibernation sites in winter and as night roosts in summer. These bats rarely occur in buildings and apparently most roost in trees during the summer. They inhabit more caves in eastern North America than any other species of bat, usually hanging singly in warmer parts of the cave. An individual may occupy a precise spot in a cave on consecutive winters; it usually has several spots in which it hangs, shifting from one to the other during the winter. This bat emerges from its daytime retreat early in the evening. It is a weak flier and so small that it may be mistaken for a large moth. Tri-colored bats usually appear to be solitary, although occasionally in late summer four or five will appear about a single tree. The flight is erratic and the foraging area is small.
- **Food Habits:** Often forages over waterways and forest edges. It eats moths, beetles, mosquitoes, midges, bugs, ants, and other insect.
- **Reproduction:** Mating occurs in autumn, sperm are stored during winter, and fertilization takes place in early spring. These bats usually bear twins in late spring or early summer. The young are born hairless and pink with eyes closed, and they are capable of making clicking sounds that may aid their mothers in locating them. They grow rapidly and can fly within a month.
- **Status of Populations:** One of the most common bats over most of its range.
- **Range:**



photo by: John Lamb  
ATA Conservation

## Related Links

[Bat Conservation International](#)

[Southeastern Bat Diversity Network](#)

[Alabama Bat Working Group](#)

[Georgia Bat Working Group](#)

[The Nature Conservancy of TN](#)

[National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis](#)

[Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency](#)

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service WNS Page](#)

[NSS White Nose Syndrome Page](#)

[Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.](#)

[Tennessee Cave Survey, Inc.](#)

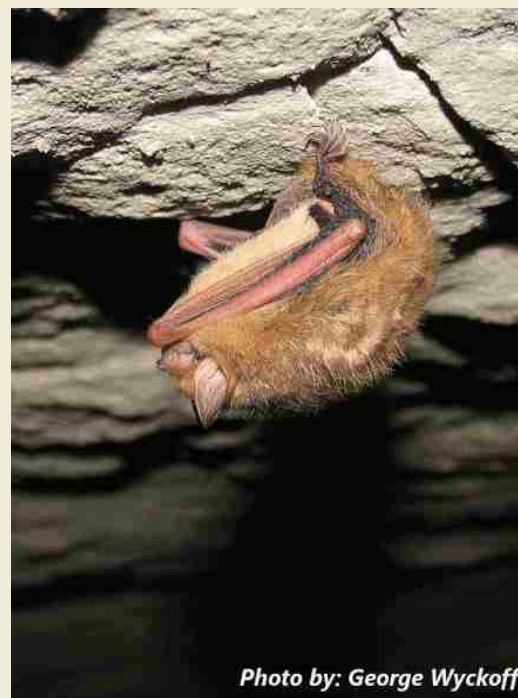
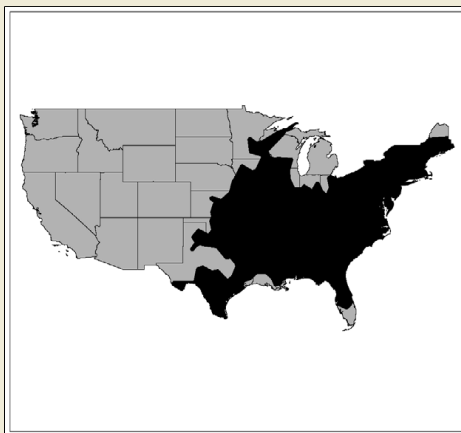
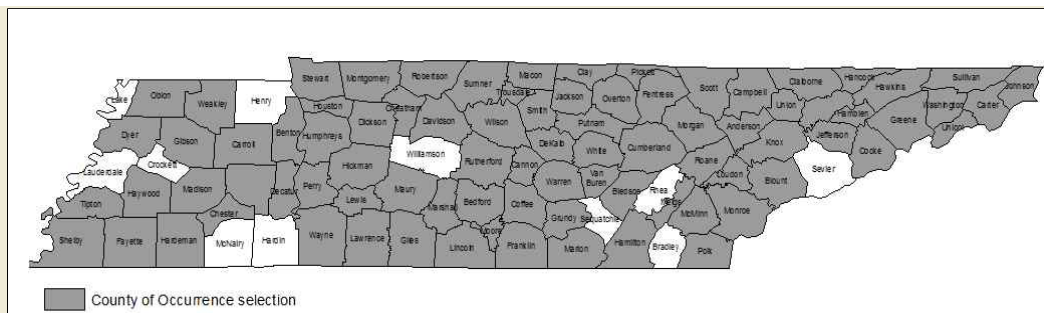


Photo by: George Wyckoff

American Cave Conservation  
Association  
TN Natural History Inventory  
Program



*The presence of species in particular counties is based on both summer and winter occurrence records compiled by the TNBWG, an unshaded county does not represent the absence of a particular species from that county, only the lack of an occurrence record. These maps are intended for educational and general information purposes only and are not intended for use in consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or any other state or federal agencies. Project proponents should contact **USFWS** and the **Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency** for the most up to date ranges for bat species in Tennessee.*

### Range Map Data Sources

*National bat ranges - Layer downloaded from [nationalatlas.gov](http://nationalatlas.gov). The data were compiled by **Bat Conservation International** using data from state natural heritage programs, published literature, unpublished reports, museum collections, and personal communications from university, Federal, State, and local biologists.*

*TN county occurrence data - TWRA Scientific Collection Permit data compiled from 2000-2013, TWRA Wildlife Diversity database, published literature [Graves and Harvey 1974. (*Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Sciences* 49:106-109)], personal communications from university, Federal, State, local biologists, and TNBWG members.*

The text for the Bat Facts and Bat Description pages of this website were taken with permission from the Bats of the Eastern United States poster. Acknowledgements for that poster read: Bats of the Eastern United States was prepared by Troy L. Best (Department of Zoology and Wildlife Science and Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, Auburn University, Alabama), J. Scott Altenbach (Department of Biology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque), and Michael J. Harvey (Department of Biology, Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville). R. R. Currie (United States National Biological Service, Asheville, North Carolina) and K. Sutton (Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Little Rock) generously provided permission to reproduce parts of Bats of the Eastern United States by M. J. Harvey (published by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and Tennessee Technological University, 46 pp., 1992). W.M. Kiser, and R. S. Lishak reviewed an early draft of the manuscript