

## Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)



### **Taxonomy:**

Family Vespertilionidae. Formerly placed in the genus *Plecotus*. Also called western big-eared bat or western lump-nosed bat. Five subspecies are recognized. The subspecies *Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens* occurs throughout the intermountain west.

### **Description:**

Distinguished from other regional bat species by its very large ears, brown coloration, and a pair of large glandular lumps on the nose.

Total length: 89-106 mm; Tail: 35-54 mm; Hind foot: 10-12.5 mm; Ear: 30-41; Forearm: 39-47 mm; Weight: 9-12g.

### **Distribution:**

Southern British Columbia south through most of the western US and into central Mexico. Common along the Wasatch Front.

### **Ecology and diet:**

Big-eared bats occur in a wide variety of habitats across a broad elevational range. They utilize many different roosting sites but are particularly dependant on caves and mines. They usually emerge from day roosts relatively late after sunset. They generally forage near vegetation, feeding mainly on moths but taking other flying insects as well. These bats hibernate in caves or mines, often in groups of more than 100 individuals.

### **Life History:**

Females form large maternity colonies of up to several hundred individuals. Single young are in early summer after a gestation of 56 to 100 days. Young are weaned in about 4-5 weeks. The maximum recorded life span is 16 years.

**References:** Kunz 1999b; Kunz & Martin 1982

