

Big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*)



Taxonomy:

Family Vespertilionidae. Eleven subspecies are recognized. The regional race is *Eptesicus fuscus pallidus*.

Description:

Likely to be confused only with *Myotis volans*, but distinguished by its larger size, and single upper premolar tooth.

Total length: 105-119 mm; Tail: 39-51 mm; Hind foot: 9-12 mm; Ear: 13-17 mm; Forearm: 40-54 mm; Weight: 14-19 g.



Distribution:

Southern Canada, south through the entire continental US and most of Mexico. One of the most common bats along the Wasatch Front.

Ecology and diet:

The Big brown bat utilizes many different types of roosts including hollow trees, caves, and mines, and is one of the most common species found roosting in buildings. They forage in a wide range of habitats and feed on a variety of flying insects but prefer beetles.

Life History:

Females mate in the fall and store sperm during winter hibernation. They ovulate and are fertilized in the spring, and births of single young occur 2 months later between May and July. Females congregate in maternity colonies. Young are weaned at about 1 month. Recorded life span is 19 years.

References: Kurta & Baker 1990; Kurta 1999.