

**Silver-haired bat** (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*)



**Taxonomy:**

Family Vespertilionidae. Also called silvery-haired bat. No subspecies are recognized.

**Description:**

Distinguishable from other bats by its blackish pelage with a "frosting" of silvery-white hairs on the back

Total length: 90-117 mm; Tail: 31-50 mm; Hind foot: 8-10 mm; Ear: 11-14 mm; Forearm: 37-47 mm; Weight: 9-12 g.



**Distribution:**

From SE Alaska south, through southern Canada, nearly all of the lower US (except the extreme SW and Gulf coast), and into northern Mexico. Numerous records of occurrence along the Wasatch Front.

**Ecology and diet:**

This distinctive bat is a widespread migrant, most often found in forested regions. Silver-haired bats roost singly or in small groups preferring hollow trees, old woodpecker holes, and under loose bark. They occasionally roost in buildings and caves. They are active early in the evening, foraging over vegetation and water for moths and other small

insects.

**Life History:**

The sexes are geographically segregated during the summer, with males found mainly in the West. Mating occurs during the fall migration period. Females apparently store sperm over the winter. Following a 50-60 day gestation, females give birth to twins in early summer. Young are weaned in 3-4 weeks. Adults may live for 12 years.

**References:** Kunz 1982, 1999a