

## VOLUME 7, NO. 2 Summer 1989

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If you have bats in your bat house and want to know what kind they are  
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Throughout the northern two-thirds of the United States and Canada, the Little brown bat and the Big brown bat would be the most commonly encountered. In general, any species that naturally roosts in buildings or under bridges is a candidate for a bat house. Here are some of the most likely:

COMMON NAME: Pallid Bat

SPECIES: *Antrozous pallidus*

HABITAT: Western and southwestern U.S., mostly in arid areas. Found in rock crevices, buildings and bridges. Winter habitat unknown, presumed to hibernate locally in deep rock crevices.

COMMON NAME: Big Brown Bat

SPECIES: *Eptesicus fuscus*

HABITAT: Most of the U.S. and Canada. Found in tree hollows and buildings. Hibernates in caves, abandoned mines and sometimes buildings. This is one of the most common and widespread North American bats.

COMMON NAME: Southeastern Bat

SPECIES: *Myotis austroriparius*

HABITAT: Mostly restricted to Gulf States. Found in caves, tree hollows and buildings. Rears young in caves, but bachelor colonies or hibernation colonies might use bat houses. Mostly non-migrating, hibernates in caves in northern range and often in tree hollows or buildings farther south.

COMMON NAME: Little Brown Bat

SPECIES: *Myotis lucifugus*

HABITAT: Wooded areas throughout most of Canada and the northern half of the U.S., except desert and arid regions. A few isolated populations farther south. Found in tree hollows and buildings. Travels to nearest suitable cave or abandoned mine for hibernation. Along with the Big brown bat, this is one of the species most commonly found in bat houses.

COMMON NAME: Cave Myotis

SPECIES: *Myotis velifer*

HABITAT: Southern Arizona and New Mexico into West Texas and Oklahoma, and extreme south central Kansas. Forms large nursery colonies and throughout its range is found in more caves than any other species. Also rears young in smaller groups in buildings, often in crevices. The eastern subspecies hibernates in caves, but the winter habitat of the western subspecies is unknown.

COMMON NAME: Yuma Myotis

SPECIES: *Myotis yumanensis*

HABITAT: All of Western Canada, Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California, Arizona, extreme western Nevada, eastern Utah, southern Colorado to western New Mexico.

Restricted to areas near water. Found in caves, buildings and bridges. Winter habitat unknown.

COMMON NAME: Mexican Free-tailed Bat

SPECIES: *Tadarida brasiliensis*

HABITAT: Common in southern and southwestern U.S., including Kansas and all of California. Found in caves, buildings and bridges, sometimes in huge colonies. Migrates to spend winter in caves and buildings of Mexico and Central America. Remains active year-round.

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*Little brown bats are among those species most often reported in bat houses. PHOTO BY MERLIN D. TUTTLE*

All articles in this issue:

- [On the Cover](#)
- [The Fight for Mt. Etna](#)
- [Extending an Invitation to Bats](#)
- [If you have bats in your bat house and want to know what kind they are](#)
- ["Flight of Fancy" Bat House](#)
- [Dr. Campbell's "Malaria-Eradicating, Guano-Producing Bat Roosts"](#)
- [A Campbell Bat Tower Restoration Project in Texas](#)
- [Bat Houses in State Parks: An Experiment in New York](#)
- [THE ONE STEP](#)
- [LETTERS](#)
- [BCI Chairman Receives National Conservation Award](#)
- [Andrew Sansom Joins BCI Board of Trustees](#)
- [CITES Flying Fox Proposal Needs Your Help](#)