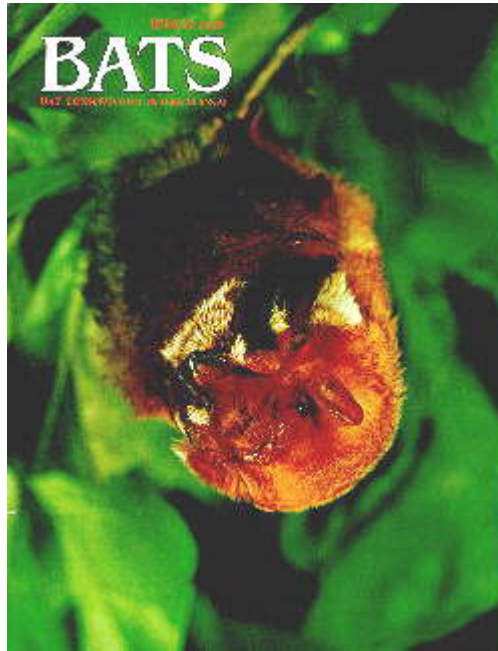


VOLUME 13, NO. 1 Spring 1995

ON THE COVER

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THE EASTERN RED BAT (*Lasiurus borealis*) is one of North America's brightest and most colorful bats, but when it hangs by a single foot concealed deep in the leaves of trees, it often resembles a dead leaf. Red bats are found wherever there are trees east of the Rocky Mountains from Canada to as far south as central Florida.

These bats are heavily furred and can wrap themselves in their furry tail membranes, insulating them from cold in winter. They are known to survive body temperatures as low as 23°F. Red bats are long distance migrators, and in the spring, they fly north. In the late 1800s, there were reports of large migratory flocks passing over in the daytime, but no such sightings have been made this century. In the summer, they feed heavily on moths and can often be seen chasing them around street lights.

PHOTO BY MERLIN D. TUTTLE

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