

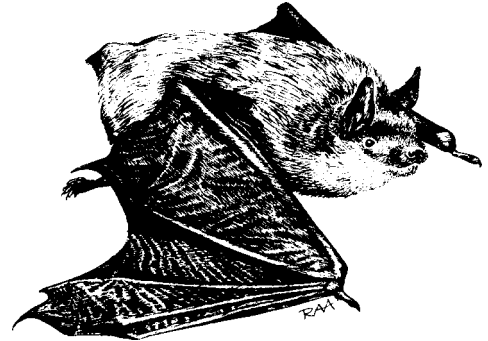


# Rare Wildlife of New Hampshire

## Small-Footed Bat

*Myotis leibii*

NEW HAMPSHIRE: ENDANGERED  
UNITED STATES: NOT LISTED



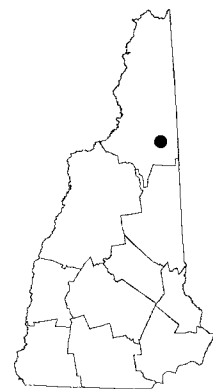
### How does it look and behave?

The small-footed bat weighs less than 1/4 ounce! This tiny bat's forearm measures only 1 1/5 - 1 2/5 inches. The ears, when laid forward, extend slightly beyond the nose.

- Appearance:** Its fur is long, silky, and yellowish and its forearms are pinkish. Unique features include a black face mask, black ears and lack of a dark shoulder patch.
- Behavior:** Bats are the only flying mammals. Bats are not blind -- they use a sonar system, called echolocation, to avoid objects and capture prey (flying insects) at night. Like all mammals, bats can carry rabies. Any bat that appears easy to handle is likely sick and should not be touched.
- Breeding:** Females bear one young sometime after they emerge from hibernation in April. Colonies of small-footed bats overwinter (hibernate) in New Hampshire beginning in November and emerging in April.

### Where is it found?

- Habitat:** In summer, the small-footed bat roosts in buildings, caves, rock crevices, and behind loose tree bark. They feed over quiet waters and wetlands, using streams and woodland trails as travel corridors between feeding and roosting areas. Small-footed bats hibernate in dry, cold caves and mines in the foothills of 2000 foot mountains.
- Range:** The small-footed bat is found in southeastern Canada, south into the mountains of northern Georgia and west to Arkansas, Missouri, southern Iowa and eastern Kansas.



Small-footed bat  
● hibernation site



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### What are the management opportunities?

Small-footed bats are endangered because they're rare in the region and are known from only one hibernaculum in the state. There are eight other species of bats in New Hampshire. The northern long-eared bat and Eastern pipistrelle are uncommon. The big brown and little brown bats are common, while biologists are uncertain of the status of hoary, red, and silver-haired bats. There are no current records of the federally endangered Indiana bat.

Foresters, landowners, land managers, and others can follow these specific management recommendations to help protect these flying mammals:

- Maintain a mosaic of forest openings, water sources, linear elements such as trails and roads, and over-mature hardwood forest stands.
- Leave snags over 14 inches dbh, particularly in over-mature hardwood stands as well as along stream courses and around wetlands.
- Preserve wetlands and other water bodies and establish and maintain areas of regenerating forest as bat feeding grounds.
- Avoid any disturbance of bats during hibernation.
- Provide an alternative bat house for bats that are in your house or other buildings. Mount a large bat house made of old, rough-cut wood on the sunny side of a building or pole or in a tree on the forest edge that is exposed to the sun for at least 4 hours each day. Bat houses located within a quarter mile of a stream or river are more likely to be utilized.
- Avoid handling bats and vaccinate dogs and cats for rabies.

### For additional information about bats contact:

Bat Conservation International  
P.O. Box 162603  
Austin, TX 78716  
(512) 327-9721

Visit their web site at <http://www.batcon.org>

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