

Identification Guide for Bats Most Often Found in Artificial Roost Structures in Georgia

Identifying the bats at your roost can be difficult but this guide has some tips. Get good photos of bats whenever possible. Inevitably, some bats will die at a roost. For ID confirmation, collect dead bats using gloves, double bag & freeze them and contact DNR immediately. DO NOT handle live bats unless absolutely necessary. Always use thick gloves and avoid direct contact.

VERY COMMON STATEWIDE

Big Brown Bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*)



Big Brown Bat on a Tree



Big Brown Bat Guano Compared to a Quarter

Big brown bats are the most common bat found in artificial roost structures and in buildings in the northern half of the state and are common statewide. It is a larger bodied bat approximately 3 inches in length. They have glossy brown fur, rounded ears and a swollen muzzle. They have large, sharp teeth. Little brown bats are considerably smaller with much pointier ears and a small muzzle. Evening bats look very similar to big brown bats but are considerably smaller.

VERY COMMON STATEWIDE

Brazilian/Mexican Free-tailed Bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis*)



Brazilian Free-tailed Bat in Building

This species is the easiest bat to identify in Georgia. It is the only bat with a tail that extends beyond the tail membrane. This bat is a little over 2 inches long, has very rounded ears and a wrinkled face. The fur is grayish brown. This species is very common in the southern half of the state but has been increasing in numbers statewide.

Identification Guide for Bats Most Often Found in Artificial Roost Structures in Georgia

LESS COMMON STATEWIDE

Evening Bats (*Nycticeius humeralis*)



Evening Bat in Building



Little Brown Bat Guano Compared to a Nickel

Evening bats are more commonly found in buildings than in bat boxes. The bats are found statewide. This bat is just over 2 inches in length. They have glossy brown fur, rounded ears and a swollen muzzle and look very similar to a big brown bat, only smaller.

LESS COMMON – ONLY FOUND IN NORTH GEORGIA

Little Brown Bats (*Myotis lucifugus*)



Little Brown Bats in Roost Box

Many people think they have little brown bats but, in fact this species is uncommon and is only found regularly in North Georgia. It is a small brown bat, approximately 2 inches in length. They have a light belly and a buffy brown back. Notice the long, pointy ears and small nose. Big Brown bats are considerably larger with more rounded ears and a swollen muzzle. Evening bats are close to the same size but have rounded ears and a swollen muzzle.

If you're completing roost counts and can't be certain which bats you have, always mark unknown. For additional information on roost counts and bats in Georgia, visit <http://www.georgiawildlife.com/Bat-Roost-Monitoring>