

Georgia Cave Bat Identification Guide



Photo by Pete Pattavina

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Tri Colored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) [PESU]



Photo by Pete Pattavina



Pink forearms,
ears and nose.



- Most common winter bat in GA
- Roosts throughout the cave.
- Typically roosts individually, but occasional in small clusters
- Likes to roost in formations as well as holes and on cave wall and ceiling
- Small bat
- Is often seen covered in condensation

Big Brown Bat
(Eptesicus fuscus)
[EPFU]

Shiny brown dorsal fur

Bare, dog like muzzle

- Large and Robust
- Typically roost outside entrance or inside entrance (in coldest sections of caves)
- Most don't hibernate in caves in GA – active in winter
- Will roost individually or in small clusters.
- Found in cracks, holes or on cave ceilings/walls
- May intermingle with other species.





Northern Long-eared Bat

(*Myotis septentrionalis*)
[MYSE]

Long pointed tragus

Dark Mask surrounding muzzle

Pink Nose



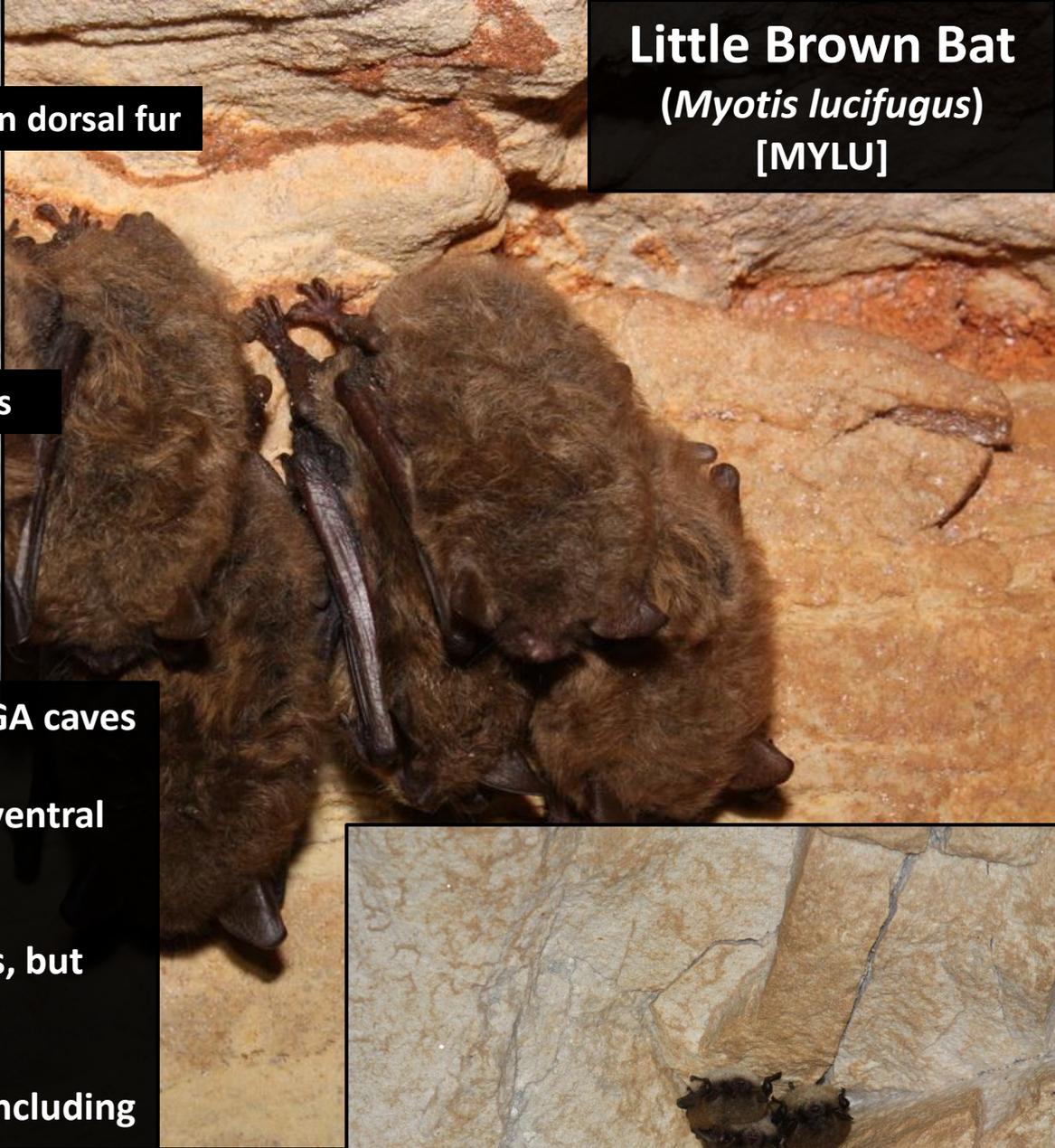
- Low numbers in caves but most common *Myotis*.
- Large ears compared to other *Myotis* species.
- Ears tend to be lighter in color than other *Myotis* species.
- Sometimes pink-ish forearm.
- Tend to roost in cracks, holes and crevices in caves. Can be seen roosting in clusters or single
- Ventral side: fairly white
- Dorsal side: light brown

Little Brown Bat
(Myotis lucifugus)
[MYLU]

Shiny brown dorsal fur

Dark nose and ears

- Rarely found in small numbers in N GA caves
- Black nose
- Typically shiny dorsal fur and white ventral fur
- Usually dark ears
- Can form dense clusters like Indianas, but typically smaller in size.
- Will roost individually.
- Will intermingle with other species including Indiana bats.
- Found near, at or just past twilight
- Sometimes found hibernating over water



Southeastern Bat (*Myotis austroriparius*) [MYAU]

Fur appears wooly
and dull

Can be gray/yellow
or orange-ish with a
darker base



Photo by Alan Cressler



Photo by Tim Carter

- Most common *Myotis* species in South GA Caves but still considered rare.
- Fur appears wooly and has a little contrast between base and tips
- Lighter colored ventral fur
- Forms large or small clusters
- Very active & tends to fly when disturbed

Gray Bat (*Myotis grisescens*) [MYGR]

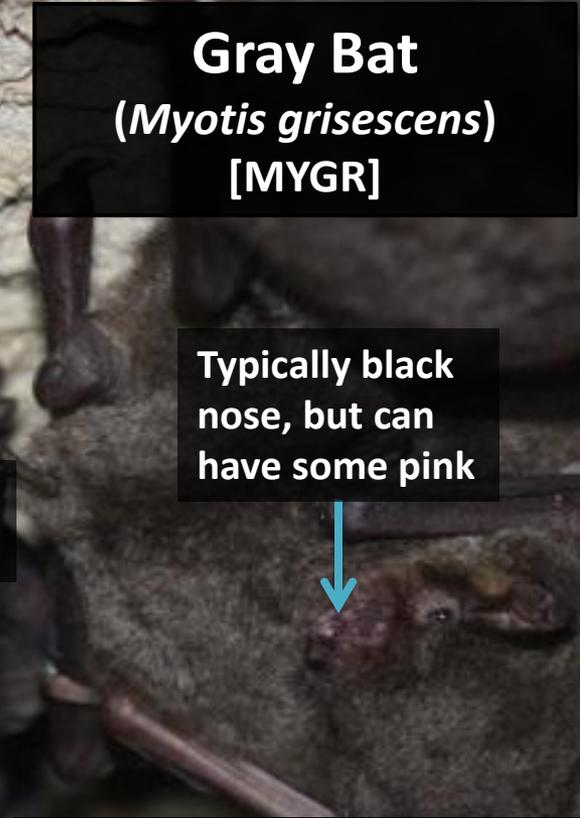
Loosely clustered,
piled on
each other

Typically black
nose, but can
have some pink

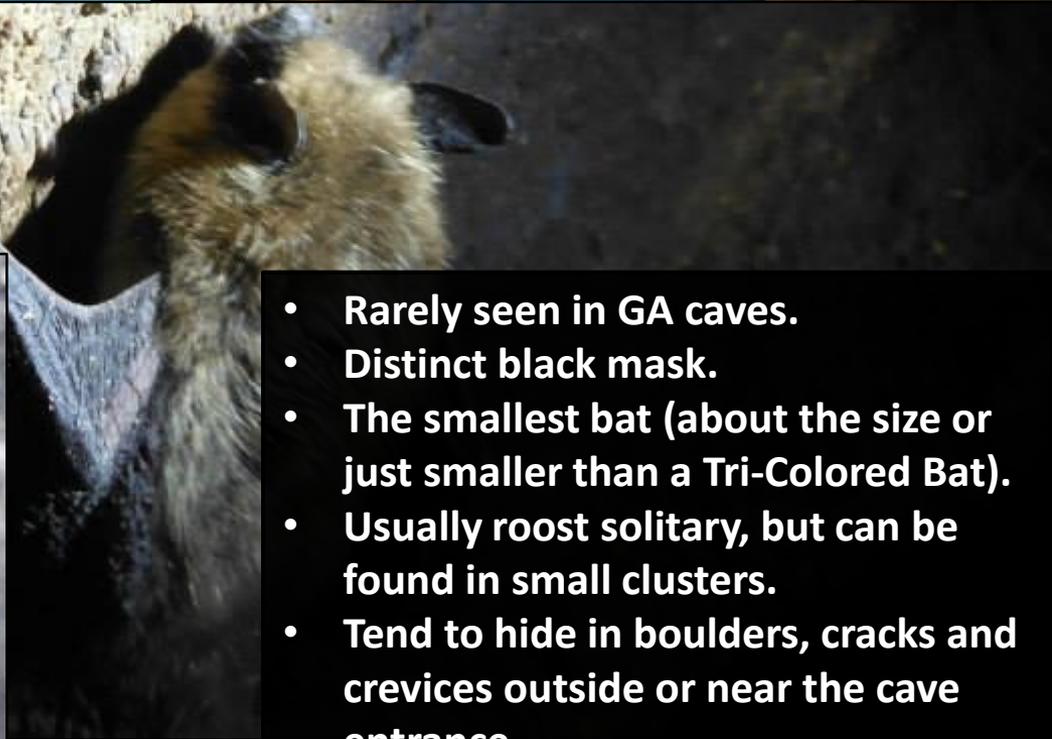
Orange under
chin/ears.

Typically dark gray
fur all around. Can
have red colored
fur in summer.

- Found in only a few caves in N. GA
- Largest *Myotis* in caves.
- Generally gray all over.
- Sometimes have a reddish hue (especially in summer).
- Usually loosely clustered.
- Large feet; wing membrane attached to ankle instead of toe.
- Mostly black nose; although can have a pink and black nose
- Robust bat



Eastern Small-Footed Bat (*Myotis leibii*) [MYLE]



- Rarely seen in GA caves.
- Distinct black mask.
- The smallest bat (about the size or just smaller than a Tri-Colored Bat).
- Usually roost solitary, but can be found in small clusters.
- Tend to hide in boulders, cracks and crevices outside or near the cave entrance.
- Found under rocks on balds.

Photo by Ron Colatskie

Rafinesque's Big Eared Bat (*Corynorhinus rafinesquii*) [CORA]

Photo by Merlin Tuttle: BCI

Large
unmistakable
1 inch ears.



Darker ventral
coloration; white or
lighter ventral
coloration



Photo by Ron Colatskie

Curls ears like
ram horns
when at rest



Short pig like
snout, with
nodules/bumps



- Rare bat in GA
- Known from S GA bottomland swamps.
- Roosts in caves & mines in N. GA
- Unmistakably large ears (over an inch)
- Can be found in caves year around, but also roosts in buildings and hollow trees.
- Males tend to roost solitary.
- Darker brown/gray in coloration with lighter colored belly

Indiana Bat
(Myotis sodalis)
[MYSO]

Pink Nose

Keeled Calcar



Very dense clusters.



- Likely not found in GA caves in winter
- Looks almost identical to little brown bat
- Pink nose
- grayish-brownish fur
- "buffalo" shaped head
- Keeled calcar
- Forms dense, compacted clusters
- Found near, at or just past twilight
- Sometimes found hibernating over water

Brazilian Free-Tailed Bat

(*Tadarida brasiliensis*)
[TABR]



Only GA bat with a tail that
Extends beyond the membrane!

Photo by J. Scott Altenbach

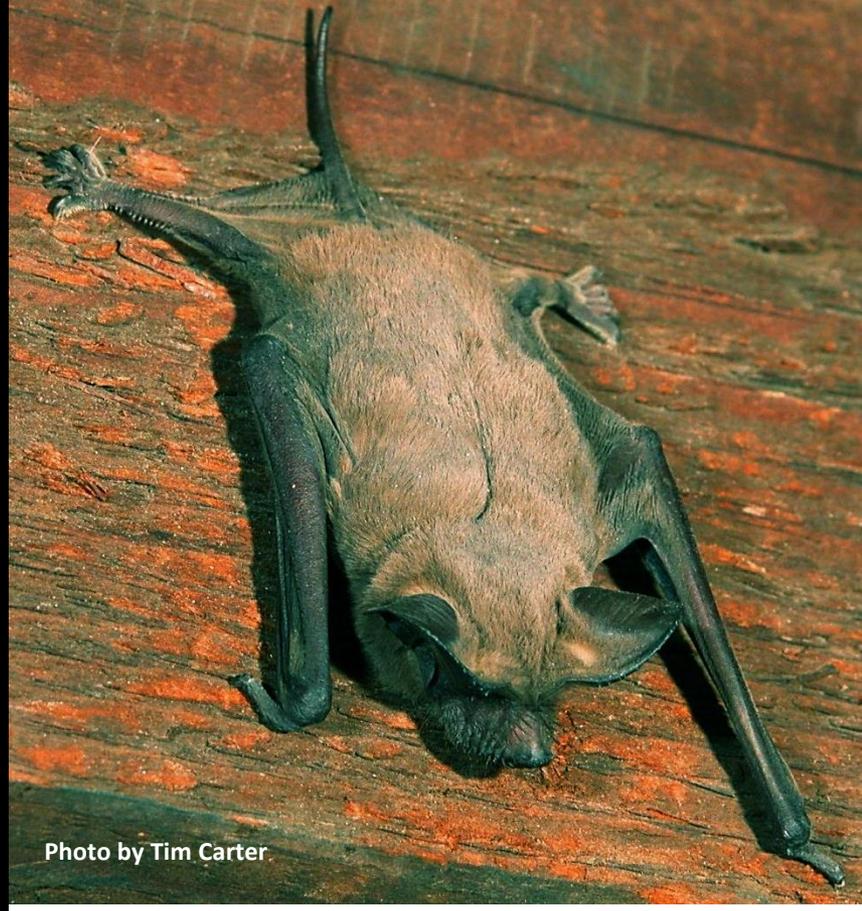


Photo by Tim Carter

- Found in caves in western portion of range but **HAS NOT** been found in GA caves
- If found, contact GA DNR ASAP.
- Short fur, brown or dark gray
- Tail very long and free of membrane
- Large ears and distinctly shaped face
- Roosts in large clusters