

## BATS AT SWIFT RIVER PECANS

### \*Eastern red bat, *Lasiurus borealis*

Red bats are tree-roosting bats, rarely found far from deciduous vegetation. In summer they roost amongst green leaves, often hanging from a single foot, appearing like a dried leaf. In winter they hibernate in leaf-litter on the ground. They make long-distance migrations, spanning the North American continent.

**Body length:** 3 in.  
**Wingspan:** 12-1/4 in.  
**Weight:** 1/2 oz.



### Northern yellow bat, *Lasiurus intermedius*

Northern yellow bats roost in dry or dead vegetation including Spanish moss and dried palm fronds. These are shy bats that do not roost in houses or in large colonies. They feed on flies, mosquitoes and beetles, including many pest species

**Body length:** 4 in.  
**Wingspan:** 14-1/2 in.  
**Weight:** 3/4 oz.

### Cave myotis, *Myotis velifer*

As their name implies, cave myotis routinely form large colonies in caves. But they will also roost in buildings, bridges, and bat houses. They feed opportunistically on many species of moths and beetles.

**Body length:** 3 in.  
**Wingspan:** 11-2/3 in.  
**Weight:** 1/2 oz.



### Hoary bat, *Lasiurus cinereus*

Hoary bats are among the largest of the U.S. bats. They are a "tree-bats" that are generally associated with pine and

fir forests. They are likely only present in central Texas during spring and fall migration. Some hoary bats have been found to summer in southern Canada and winter in northern Mexico.

**Body length:** 5 in.  
**Wingspan:** 15-3/4 in.  
**Weight:** 2/3 oz.



### \*Evening bat, *Nycticeius humeralis*

Evening bats are among the first bats to be seen at dusk. In summer they roost in tree hollows, buildings, and bat houses. They consume beetles, flying ants, and moths. Not much is known about their winter behavior.

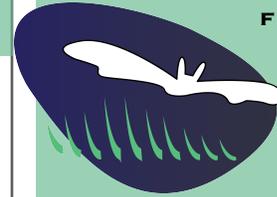
**Body length:** 2 in.  
**Wingspan:** 10-1/3 in.  
**Weight:** 1/4 oz.

### \*Tri-colored bat, *Perimyotis subflavus*



Tri-colored bats (formerly called eastern pipistrelles) live in forests during the summer and caves in the winter. They are often difficult to capture because they tend to fly over large bodies of water where they forage on aquatic insects. Luckily these bats have distinctive echolocation calls that are easy to identify.

**Body length:** 2 in.  
**Wingspan:** 9-1/3 in.  
**Weight:** 1/4 oz.



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## Diversity

### Worldwide

Over 1,100 bat species live on Earth. They are found on every continent except Antarctica and occupy every habitat except the most extreme desert and polar ecosystems.

### U.S. and Canada

Nearly 50 species of bats can be found in North America, north of Mexico. They range in size from tiny animals weighing less than a nickel with 6-inch wingspans, to individuals tipping the scales at a hefty 2-1/2 ounces and having wingspans approaching 2-feet.

### Central Texas

There are at least six species of bats that are year-round residents in Central Texas with another three that may migrate through the area, stopping over in spring and fall. All are insectivorous and their prodigious consumption of nocturnal insects make them valuable friends of farmers, foresters, and homeowners.

## Why save bats?

### Threats to Bats

Like all animals, bats are subject to habitat loss and degradation, but they are also persecuted out of fear and ignorance. Bats eat huge amounts of insects, including many crop and garden pests. Most bats will consume up to their body weight in insects nightly. Installing a bat house is a great way to provide a home for hungry bats in any habitat where natural roosts are in short supply.



Bat Survey Solutions and Merlin Tuttle's Bat Conservation coordinated to perform simultaneous bat capture and acoustic surveys of the Swift River Pecans properties. Three bat species were captured (starred, above). These and an additional four species were identified from archetypical echolocation calls. Mexican free-tailed bats were the dominant species at the site, but six additional species described above were also documented.

SPECIES CODE: Species, common name	Bat Passes	Proportion of Total 881 bat passes identified to species
LASBOR: <i>Lasiurus borealis</i> , eastern red bat	23	<p>SWIFT RIVER PECANS RELATIVE BAT ACTIVITY: 19-22 APRIL 2022</p>
LASCIN: <i>Lasiurus cinereus</i> , hoary bat	3	
LASINT: <i>Lasiurus intermedius</i> , northern yellow bat	10	
MYOVEL: <i>Myotis velifer</i> , cave myotis	2	
NYCHUM: <i>Nycticeius humeralis</i> , evening bat	168	
PIPSUB: <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> , tri-colored bat	16	
TADBRA: <i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i> , Mexican free-tailed bat	659	