



**Natural Heritage
& Endangered Species
Program**

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Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

**Silver-haired Bat
*Lasionycteris noctivagans***

State Status: **None**
Federal Status: **None**

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: The fur of Silver-haired Bats is dark blackish-brown to brown, with the tips of the hairs on the back tipped with silver. Total length is about 100 mm; weight is about 10.5 grams. The sexes are alike. While all of the cave bats have only one pup per year, the tree bats, including the Silver-haired Bat, produce three or four pups a year.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE: Data on specific locations of Silver-haired Bat are not recorded by NHESP. Silver-haired Bats do not hibernate in Massachusetts; they are only known from the state during the summer and migration. Silver-haired Bats have not been documented breeding in Massachusetts. Whitaker and Hamilton (1998) note that only females migrate north from the wintering grounds. This would indicate that Silver-haired Bats found in Massachusetts are likely to be mostly females and young of the year. Silver-haired Bats are the most uncommon tree bat in the state, with records from only 15 of the 351 municipalities.

HABITAT DESCRIPTION: Silver-haired Bats in Massachusetts inhabit forests, particularly along rivers and lakes, over which they hunt. They often roost solitarily in hollow trees, crevices in rocks and cliffs, and under loose bark, but females and their young may form small maternity colonies in the same kinds of roost sites.

THREATS: As for most other tree bats, Silver-haired Bats are threatened by the precipitous decline in larger moths due to parasitism by the non-native wasp, *Compsilura concinnata*. In Massachusetts, the three tree bats, Red, Hoary, and Silver-haired, are the bats most frequently killed by wind turbines. Other threats include declines in other prey species, due to insecticide spraying or prey species habitat destruction, and outright destruction of bat habitat, due to conversion to development, intensive logging, or agriculture.

REFERENCES:

Whitaker, J. O., Jr., and W. J. Hamilton, Jr. 1998. *Mammals of the Eastern United States*. Third edition. Comstock Publishing Associates, Ithaca, New York.

Updated 2015

A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan

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