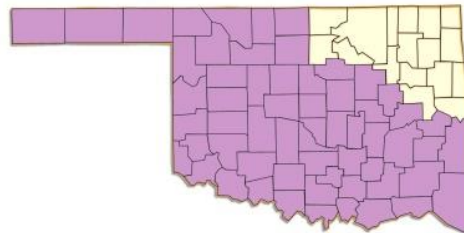


Mexican Free-Tailed Bat



J.Scott Altenbach



Status: Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Tadarida brasiliensis

Migratory

Wing Span: 12" – 14"

Total Length: 3 ½" - 4 ¼ "

Color: Dark brown to Dark Gray Fur

Preferred Daytime Roost: Caves, bridges, buildings, bat houses

Evening Flight Time: Usually Before Sunset

Feeding/Flying Behavior: Feeds from 15' up to several thousand feet above the ground. Will travel miles from its cave or roost while feeding.

Pup Development Period: Late May- Late July

In Hand Look For: Tail extending more than half its length beyond tail membrane and rounded ears.

Cool Fact: Four caves in western Oklahoma serve as major nursery caves for perhaps up to 3 million Mexican Free-tailed Bats each summer.

Picture to right shows Mexican Free-tailed bat pups clustered on the ceiling. There can be anywhere from 300-350 pups per square foot in each cluster.

