



Bats - Quick Reference Sheet¹

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Table 1.

Common Name:		bat
Other Names:		numerous, depending on species
Scientific Names:		16 species of bats may be found in Florida
Appearance:	Size:	mouse-sized with wings
	Color:	usually brown of various shades
Range:		statewide
		abundance and number of species decreases from north to south Florida
Habitat:		various, depending on species
		most common near water
		many species roost in dark areas in buildings, caves and other hiding places during the day
Diet:		insects
Reproduction:		1 to 4 offspring per litter, depending on species
		1 litter per year in spring

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Behavior:	most commonly seen bat species roost in caves, attics and other enclosed sites
	active at night, frequently flying over water or around street lights
	erratic flight as they swoop and turn to catch flying insects
Problems:	roost in buildings, often in attics or behind shutters
	may drink from outdoor swimming pools
	rabies threat overstated, transmission to humans rare
	do not fly in hair, suck blood, or eat fruit
Solutions:	excluding bats from roost site is only effective solution
	exclusion inadvisable between April and August because flightless young bats may be trapped inside and killed
	repellents, lights, ultrasonic devices generally ineffective
	learn more about bats; problems are over-exaggerated
Legal Aspects:	several cave-dwelling bats in north Florida are protected by state and federal laws
Fact Sheet Available:	yes