

IDENTIFICATION: The Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) has fur ranging from nearly black to chestnut on its back with lighter gray or cinnamon fur on the belly. Individual hairs have dark bases with lighter tips. Its wingspan is about 9.5 – 10.5 inches. They hibernate in caves and mines during the winter. They disperse from hibernation caves in the spring and form separate male, female and juvenile colonies. Females form maternal colonies that roost under loose bark of trees, usually near water. Little is known about where males spend the summer.



FORESTRY CONSIDERATIONS: The greatest threat forestry activities pose is disturbance of hibernating colonies in nest caves. A buffer area of undisturbed vegetation should be maintained around the entrances of hibernation caves. If roosting bats are found during harvest or site clearing activities, protect the tree and area around it until a determination of the bat species. Areas containing Indiana bat roost sites should be managed to ensure an adequate number of roost trees, and sufficient wooded area within the bat's home range to support the colony.

DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTY: Indiana bats are presently known to occur in Blount, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Marshall, Morgan and Shelby counties in Alabama.

Photo and Text Credit: Threatened and Endangered Species of Alabama: A Guide to Assist with Forestry Activities, Second Edition, USFS



This information is provided by the Alabama Forestry Commission

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