

# Florida Bonneted Bat Fast Facts



Photo credit- Dustin Smith, Bat Conservation International

## *Eumops floridanus*

- Largest bat in Florida- about the size of a standard smartphone- up to 6.5 inches in length
- Member of family Molossidae or "Free-tailed" bat family
- In 2013, list as an Endangered Species
- Insectivorous- most bats can consume up to 1/3 of their body weight in insects each evening
- Tropical, non-hibernating species



Figure 4. The ears of Brazilian free-tailed bats are not joined at the base (left), whereas those of the Florida bonneted bat are joined (right). Credit: Elizabeth Braun de Torrez, UF/IFAS, Kathleen Smith, FFWCC, used with permission.

Photo credit- Elizabeth de Torres

- Harem reproductive behaviors- with a single male to multiple females
- Small Colony Roosts- less than 50 for each group
- Ears join at the base (image on the right) unlike Brazilian free-tailed bats who have a space between ear bases

- Known populations are found in southern Florida
- They have lower frequency echolocation vocalizations that can be heard by the human ear
- Studies have shown that individuals of these bats can have hypopigmented markings that appear white- markings vary between each bats



Photo credit- Jeffery Gore

## Florida bonneted bat known range

By Wetland and Aquatic Research Center, 2020 (approx.)



This map indicated the best known range of the Florida Bonneted Bat, most research is focused in southern Florida, but fossil records and recorded vocalizations extend their possible range to central and eastern Florida.

### References:

Braun de Torrez, E. C., Gore, J. A. & Ober, H. K. (2020). Evidence of resource-defense polygyny in an endangered subtropical bat, *Eumops floridanus*. *Global Ecology and Conservation*, Volume 24, 2020- e01289. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2020.e01289>

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. (2013). A species action plan for the Florida bonneted bat. Tallahassee, Florida. <https://myfwc.com/media/2117/florida-bonneted-bat-species-action-plan-final-draft.pdf>

Smith, L. M., Gore, J. A., Braun de Torrez, E. C., Webb, E., Ridgley, F. & Tornwall, B. (2019, Dec 1). High incidence of hypopigmented marks in the endangered Florida bonneted bat. *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management* (2019) 10 (2): 410-418. <https://doi.org/10.3996/112018-JFWM-110>