

Discussions and Conclusions

The data collected in this study were based upon random samples of a natural population in which the animals' ages were not known beforehand. Nevertheless, counts of tooth annuli are believed to give absolutely accurate age determinations for known-age wild deer on Vancouver Island (Thomas and Bandy 1973). Therefore, individual lens weights could be easily assigned to specific age groups within the population.

Unlike Longhurst (1964), who claimed success in estimating the age of individual black-tailed deer to 5 years of age by regressions of lens weights on age, we found that the mathematical expressions generated in this study did not serve to give reliable estimates of age for this population. Individual lens weights were so variable that linear models, although significant, were mostly impractical for inferences of age. Moreover, in attempting to minimize this variation by considering the mean lens weights for all age classes only, the polynomial expressions were impractical for age determination as well, as no confidence could be placed on the final estimates.

At best then, the lens-weight method permits reliable separation of the fawn and adult classes only (cf. Lueth 1963). To place further emphasis on this growth structure as an age criterion for this population would be foolhardy where subjective characteristics of tooth eruption and wear serve equally well (Child 1970). Nevertheless, it has been shown that the eye lens grows continuously at a species-predictable rate, and the resultant growth curve awaits verification when tagged specimens of known age become available.

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KENNETH N. CHILD¹
EDWIN M. HAGMEIER²

¹Department of Recreation and Conservation
Fish and Wildlife Branch
Prince George, British Columbia

²Department of Biology
University of Victoria
Victoria, British Columbia

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Albino Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus lucifugus*) from Wisconsin, with Remarks on Other Aberrant Bats

In a recent publication (Walley 1971) I reviewed most of the literature on albinism and other aberrant colorations in bats, but I omitted five important references which are cited below, along with information on an albino Little Brown Bat (*Myotis l. lucifugus*) from Wisconsin.

Hamilton (1930) reported an occurrence of pied coloration in bats, and sited a specimen of *M. l. lucifugus* from Kentucky. Trapido and Crowe (1942) sited two additional specimens of *M. lucifugus* showing pied patterns from Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and three leucistic *Eptesi-*

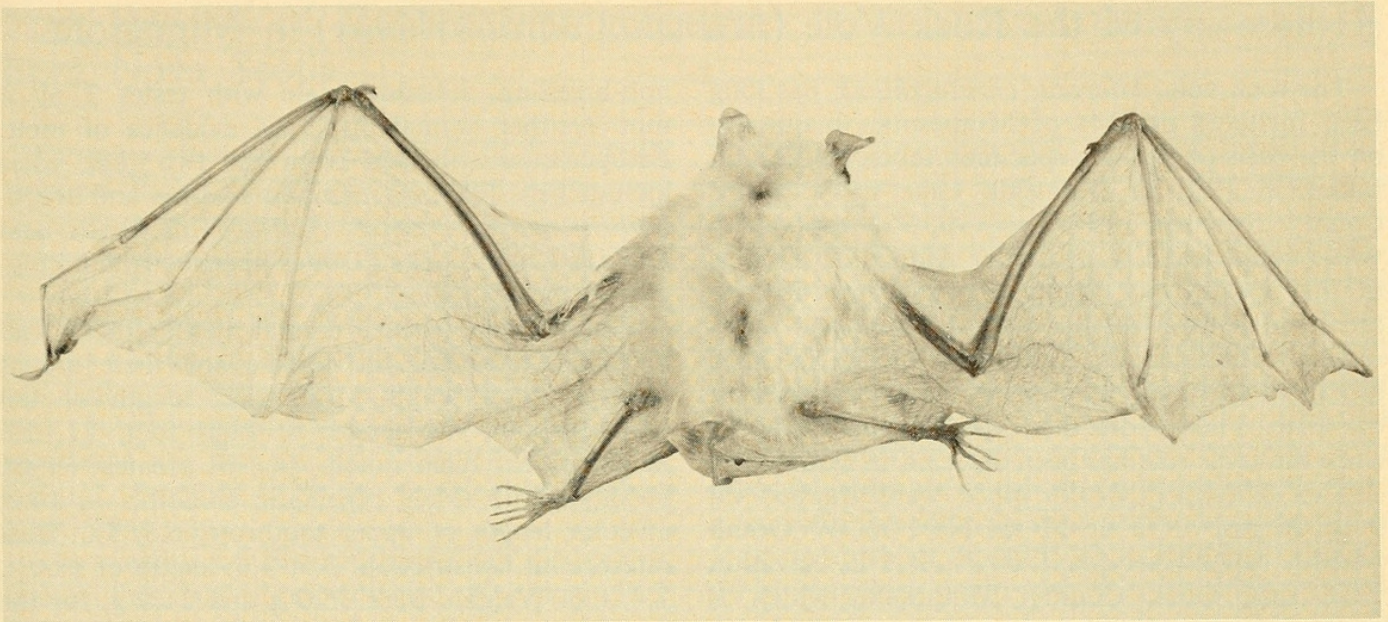


FIGURE 1. Albino *Myotis l. lucifugus* from Wisconsin. Photo by Jane K. Glaser, RBP, Northern Illinois University.

cus fuscus from Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Subsequently Goslin (1947) reported a leucistic *Pipistrellus s. subflavus* from Ohio, having only the wing tips white, while Bures (1948) reported an albinistic specimen from Maryland. Sealander (1960) recorded color variants in *Myotis sodalis* from Arkansas.

While leucistic patterns appear somewhat regularly in certain species of bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis*, *Myotis sodalis*, and *Barbastella barbastellus*), albinism is rarely reported.

Dubkin (1952) described the first reported albino *M. lucifugus* at length, while the present report apparently represents the second known specimen.

The present specimen, FMNH 44435, male, was collected by Mrs. J. Hinaus in July 1936, at Bruce, Rusk County, Wisconsin, and presently is in a mummified state of preservation. The forearm measures 36.8 mm, ear 9.4 mm, foot 10.2 mm, whereas body measurements of this specimen could not be made accurately (Figure 1). The spinal column is clearly visible through the white pelage.

To my knowledge this represents the second reported albino *M. lucifugus*, as well as a new county record for this species in Wisconsin.

I thank Mr. Richard Stupka, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, for bringing this specimen to my attention, and Dr. de la Torre of the Field

Museum of Natural History, Chicago, for permitting examination of it. I am grateful also to Mrs. Jane K. Glaser, Department of Biology, Northern Illinois University for supplying the photograph.

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HARLAN D. WALLEY

Department of Biology
 Northern Illinois University
 DeKalb, Illinois 60115

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