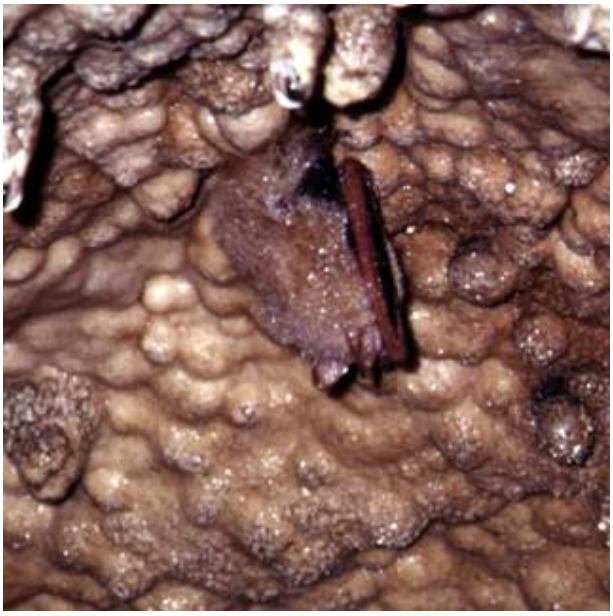

# eastern pippistrelle

*Pipistrellus subflavus*

| | |
|---|---|
| Kingdom: | Animalia |
| Division/Phylum: | Chordata - vertebrates |
| Class: | Mammalia |
| Order: | Chiroptera |
| Family: | Vespertilionidae |

## Features

The eastern pipistrelle attains a total length of up to 3 1/2 inches, including a tail that's up to 1 3/4 inches. This bat has hair that is black at the base, orange-yellow in the middle, and dark at the tip. It has small, reddish forearms and black wings. A blunt tragus (membranous projection) is present in the ear.

## Natural History

The eastern pipistrelle lives in caves, mines, buildings, and trees along waterways in the summer. It hibernates in caves. This bat eats insects. It flies before sunset, feeding near woods, fields, and streams. It hangs alone while hibernating. Mating occurs in the fall and spring. Those females mating in the fall store sperm in the uterus until spring, when egg fertilization occurs. Young are born by late June and begin flying by mid-July. Two young usually are born per female. Females do not reproduce every year. The eastern pipistrelle has been known to live for more than 14 years. Males and non-reproductive females usually roost away from nurseries.

## Habitats

Mississippi River; Missouri River; bottomland forests; interior rivers and streams

## Iowa Status

common; native

## Iowa Range

statewide

## Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001. *Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.