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An Investigation of the Validity of the Bat Species *Myotis Sodalis* (*Chiroptera Vespertilionidae*)

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AN INVESTIGATION OF THE VALIDITY OF THE
BAT SPECIES *MYOTIS SODALIS* (CHIROPTERA
VESPERTILIONIDAE)

Jeffrey Skibins, Dept. of Biology, IWU, Thomas Griffiths*

In 1929, Miller and Allen, (Bull. U.S. Natl. Mus., 144: viii + 218 pp) named a new bat species, *Myotis sodalis* on the basis of examinations of museum specimens. Since then, investigations have suggested that the population of *Myotis sodalis* has decreased dramatically. This reduction in number has been significant enough to warrant Federal Endangered Species status. Alternatively, it is possible that *Myotis sodalis* never existed as a species. I believe that this taxon was incorrectly recognized and named. In order to test whether this is the case I will perform a computerized cluster analysis on skin and skull measurements obtained by Dr. Thomas Griffiths. These results may show that *Myotis sodalis* is not a separate species and thus does not warrant Federal protection.