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Arkansas Range Extension of the Seminole Bat (*Lasiurus seminolus*)

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The Seminole bat, *Lasiurus seminolus* (Rhoads) is medium-sized and similar in general appearance to the red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*). Differences occur in coloration; the Seminole bat is a rich mahogany-brown color, lightly frosted with white above and paler below (Sealander and Heidt, 1990). Seminole bats are considered a treedwelling species occurring most often in the deep south. This bat's range has been strongly associated with that of Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneodes*) in which it roosts. During summer months Seminole bats range from South Carolina to the gulf coast of Texas and Mexico. Individuals have been found as far north as Pennsylvania and New York (Barbor and Davis, 1969). Historically, this bat was generally considered to occur in the two tiers of counties that make up southern Arkansas (Sealander and Hoiberg, 1954; Baker and Ward, 1967; Sealander, 1979; Hall, 1981).

Heath et al. (1983) reported capturing an adult female Seminole bat at the entrance of an abandoned mine in Polk County. This specimen extended the range in Arkansas 57 km north of previously reported records.

Saugey et al. (1989) reported capturing Seminole bats in Garland, Logan, and Yell counties of Arkansas. This extended the range of the species 71 km north of the 1982 location in Polk County reported by Heath et al. (1983; 1986). This was a major range extension for this species, but it still remained south of the Arkansas River in Arkansas.

Kennedy et al. (1984) reported the Seminole bat from the Memphis, Tennessee area. This would be slightly more northerly than the most northern reports from Arkansas.

On 7 August 1997, an adult female Seminole bat was mist-netted over a pond in Baxter County in north central Arkansas (Fig. 1). The pond is located within the Sylamore Ranger District of the Ozark National Forest.

A female seminole bat was turned into the Arkansas Department of Health Rabies Lab. This bat was collected 20 September 1997, from Pine Bluff, Jefferson County and was positive for rabies (Fig. 1). This bat was within the range previously established by Saugey et al. (1989), but is a new county record for the species.

A female seminole bat was captured in Franklin County on 5 September 1998. This bat was captured over an upland pond in the Boston Mountain Ranger District of the Ozark National Forest (Fig. 1). The bat was measured, banded (#2133) and released.

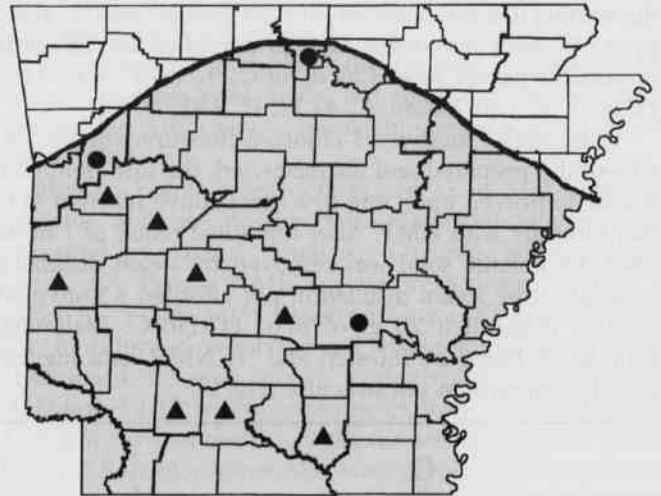


Fig. 1. Distribution of the seminole bat (*Lasiurus seminolus*) in Arkansas. Triangles represent counties where bats have been previously recorded; the circles represent the counties where this bat was captured in this study.

The Baxter and Franklin County captures extend the range of Seminole bats approximately 115 km north of previous published records in Arkansas. These specimens also extend the range approximately 73 km north of Seminole bats collected in Tennessee.

Voucher specimens have been placed in the Collection of Recent Mammals at Arkansas State University.

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