



Bats of the Macedon Ranges

Bats are essential to the biodiversity of the Macedon ranges. They help pollinate plants and flowers, spread their seeds around, while other bats help control pests by eating insects in the area.

White-striped Freetail Bat (*Tadarida australis*)

Size: 10cm

The White Striped Freetail Bat is a very soft furred bat. Its fur is dark brown and almost black, with lighter underparts and white stripes under its wings. This bat is one of the few microbats with echolocation calls that can be heard by humans. These bats roost in hollowed out trees, under bark and in the ceiling of buildings. They feed on flying insects above the tree canopy's and eat their food while they fly.



Gould Long Eared Bat (*Nyctophilus gouldi*)

Size: 5.8cm

The Goulds Long Eared bat is a slate grey to grey-brown colour with an ash grey underbelly, as the name suggests it has very long ears and its wings are short and wide. They roost in hollowed out eucalypts. The males generally roost alone while females roost with up to 25 other females in a colony. When hunting this bat flies close to the ground catching flying insects.



Lesser Long Eared Bat (*Nyctophilus geoffroyi*)

Size: 5 cm

The lesser long eared bat is a small bat with light grey and brown fur, often white on the belly. It has very long strongly ribbed ears which can be up to 25 mm and fold when at rest. It has a high muzzle ridge. They generally roost alone or in little groups of three, in crevasses, under bark, in houses and in hollows. These bats fly close to vegetation as they feed on moths, crickets and grasshoppers and other insects. Threats can include owls, hawks, cats and land clearing.





Goulds Wattled Bat (*Chalinolobus gouldi*)

Size: 10 cm

The Goulds Wattled has a dark black head and shoulders with dark brown back and body, with a short little muzzle and ears. This bat hunts below the tree canopy eating moths and insects but usually won't eat any beetle's flies or cockroaches it finds and is able to fly up to 36 kmh. Male wattle bats usually roost alone or with other species, whereas females roost in groups of up to 30 or more bats. They tend to roost in tree hollows, old bird nests and in ceilings. Natural predators like cats, owls and currawongs are known to kill these bats.



Chocolate Wattled Bat (*Chalinolobus morio*)

Size: 6cm

The Chocolate Wattled Bat has chocolate brown fur all over, the head is steeply domed with a short and broad muzzle. When hunting for small moths this bat flies quite fast as it twists and turns catching their prey. Like many other bats this bat roosts in tree hollows and in disused bird nests. The females roost together with colonies of up to 6–70 while males generally roost alone. Predators that hunt and kill these bats include goannas, owls and feral cats.



Southern Myotis (*Myotis macropus*)

Size: 4 – 5cm

This bat is probably one of Australia's most fascinating bats as it's the only species in that is able to catch fish for food. The Southern Myotis is also known as the large footed Myotis as it has very large feet which it uses to "trawl" next to the water's surface. It has dark grey fur on its back and a slightly lighter belly. They tend to roost in caves, mines and under bridges, usually in groups of 10 – 15. They feed on small fish and aquatic insects and fly close to the surface of streams and lakes, catching prey with their claws and large feet.





Inland Broad Nosed Bat (*Scotorepens balstoni*)

Size: 5cm

The Inland Broad Nosed Bat has sandy to dark brown fur and a broad, square shaped muzzle. These little bats are quite aggressive and will bite when captured. They roost in colonies of up to 45 in tree hollows and in the roofs of houses. They hunt below the tree canopy eating all sorts of bugs and insects like cockroaches, termites, beetles, flies, ants, moths and crickets. Threats include things like loss of tree roosts and habitats, snakes, hawks and owls.



Eastern Falsistrelle (*Falsistrellus tasmaniensis*)

Size: 6–7cm

The Eastern Falsistrelle has reddish brown fur on its back with a lighter paler fur on the belly. It has long slender ears and a short muzzle. These bats generally roost in hollow eucalypt trunks, either entirely male or female colonies made up of up to 36 bats. Their diet consists of mainly beetles and moths and forage just below the forest canopy. Threats include Owls, loss of tree hollows and habitat.



Southern Forest Bat (*Vespadelus regulus*)

Size: 4 – 5 cm

The Southern Forest Bat is a small bat with reddish brown fur on the back and a light brown to light grey on the underbelly. It has grey ears and wings. It roosts in tree hollows usually but also in roofs of houses if there are insufficient hollows. They can form up to 100 bats in a colony, while males tend to roost alone except for mating season. These bats have great aerial ability which help them hunt their prey through forested areas and in dense forests. They are vulnerable to things like agricultural clearing, housing and loss of feeding grounds.





Little Forest Bat (*Vespadelus vulturnus*)

Size: 4cm

The Little Forest bat is one of the smallest mammals in Australia, it has bicoloured fur that is dark at the base and creamy white to grey at the tips. Because it is so small it has great aerial agility when hunting for prey. When hunting they fly very close to the foliage and collect moths, bugs, spiders and grasshoppers. They tend to prefer tall open forest and can be found in hollows with small entrances but will shelter in buildings. Colonies can range from 1 individual bat to 120. Main predators include hawks, owls, goannas and feral cats.



Large Forest Bat (*Vespadelus darlingtoni*)

Size: 6cm

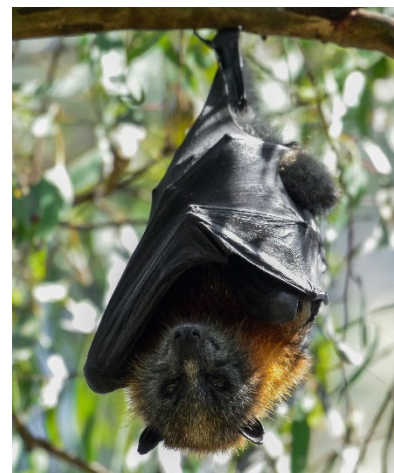
The Large Forest Bat can be identified by its dark grey to dark brown fur all over and lighter fur at the tips. It is the largest bat in its genus. But this bat is offset by having the least manoeuvrability in flight. It avoids flying and hunting in dense areas of forest. Its food consists of, flies, bugs, beetles, moths and spiders. They are found in rainforest, alpine areas and forests. They usually roost in high trees with up to 6 females in each colony.



Grey Headed Flying Fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*)

Size: 25–29cm

The Grey Headed Flying Fox is the only Australian flying fox to have a mantle of reddish, brown fur circling the neck. Its head is covered in a light grey fur, its back is coloured dark grey and so is its belly. These bats have an impressive wingspan that can reach up to 1.5 metres. Their diets consist of fruits, flowers, pollen, nectar and eucalyptus blossom and they forage at night. Threats to the Grey Headed Flying Fox include things like barbwire fences, powerlines and prolonged drought.



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