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the Indiana Bat, *Myotis sodalis*

BY

JOHN S. HALL

READING, PENNSYLVANIA

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Life History and Taxonomic Study of the Indiana Bat,  
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BY

JOHN S. HALL<sup>1</sup>

INTRODUCTION

The Indiana bat, *Myotis sodalis*, was described by Miller and Allen in 1913 when they reviewed the genus *Myotis* in North America. This species has been overlooked for many years, even though it was well represented in museum collections. It had been confused with *Myotis lucifugus*, which it closely resembles. Little is known about *M. sodalis* other than its distribution in the Midwest and some fragmentary life history information. A general life history study of a species as widespread and numerous as this bat was definitely needed and such a study was begun in the fall of 1956.

The range of *M. sodalis* extends from Vermont through southern Michigan and southern Wisconsin, south through Missouri and Oklahoma, and west again to northern Florida. Field research was conducted in caves and mine tunnels in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Missouri. This area is the center of distribution of the species. Studies were conducted during most months of the year. A total of 130 days was spent in the field from January 1956, through December 1960.

The objective of the work done in the winter was to determine the size and distribution of hibernating colonies, to study factors concerning selection of the hibernating site, and to learn the habits of *M. sodalis* during the hibernation period. During the summer months information was obtained on the distribution, composition, activity, and habitat selection of summer colonies. Approximately 12,000 *Myotis sodalis* were banded in an effort to determine seasonal movement, non-seasonal movement, and returns to same areas in winter and summer, and to begin a study of survival by band returns from year to year. Other investigators have banded many thousands of *M. sodalis* in the mid-west over the last ten years. This banding was valuable in my studies and made possible a large number of band returns. The area of banding was large enough to define areas of movement more clearly than has been possible before. This information concerning movement patterns of *M. sodalis* has implications on homing ability and methods of navigation by bats.

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This has been a favorable species to study because of its limited geographic range. The intensive field work was done over a large portion of the range. This made it possible to obtain definite information on the populational structure of the species and on factors involved in the distribution and dispersal of the species.

Another objective of this work was to study geographic variation of *M. adalis* and to compare its morphology with several other *Myotis*. Several species of *Myotis* were compared as to differences in distributional patterns and ecological relationships. Six species of *Myotis* occur in the study area and often four are found in one cave system. This provided a fine opportunity to study differences in the ecology of these species. This information is important in understanding mechanisms of isolation during speciation in the genus *Myotis*.

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I wish to thank persons in charge of various collections, who made available to me specimens in these collections. The abbreviations following the names listed below are those used throughout the paper for the various collections. I extend my appreciation to:

Donald F. Hoffmeister, University of Illinois Museum of Natural History (UI)

<sup>2</sup>This report is based upon a dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Zoology in the Graduate College of the University of Illinois.

William H. Burt, University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (UMMZ)  
Philip Hershkovitz, Chicago Natural History Museum (CNHM)  
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Charles G. Van Gelder, American Museum of Natural History (AMNH)  
Daniel Gundy, Reading Public Museum (RPM)  
Barbara Lawrence, Harvard University Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ)

#### METHODOLOGY

Twenty caves in the mid-west region were investigated to learn of the distribution of bat populations in winter and summer. I investigated 52 in winter, 51 in summer, and 23 in both summer and winter. These represent a random group of caves, since as many different ones were used in any particular area as time allowed. This was done to observe the diversity of cave environments existing in this area. Estimates were made of numbers of bats of all species in each cave. This was done by direct counting in the case of small numbers. If a cave contained a large colony of about 1,000 was counted and the remaining were estimated by the counted group as a basis.

Temperatures in the caves were taken with a centigrade, mercury-bulb thermometer. Relative humidities were taken with a sling hygrometer. Temperatures of the microenvironment, bat clusters, and rectal temperatures of bats were taken with a thermistor enclosed in a rounded-end glass tube. This instrument was loaned by Dr. C. Ladd Prosser, University of Illinois. The detailed studies of habits throughout the year were conducted in 14 caves as follows: ILLINOIS: *La Salle County*: Blackball Mine; *Hardin County*: Cave Spring Cave; INDIANA: *Crawford County*: Wyandotte Cave; *Dee County*: Ray's Cave; *Monroe County*: Coon's Cave; Grotto Cave; KENTUCKY: *Carter County*: Bat Cave; *Edmonson County*: Coach Cave; Jones Cave; Bat Cave; Long's Cave; Dixon Cave; Colossal Cave; Wilson Cave. A number of caves in Missouri and Tennessee were investigated, but very little time was spent in these areas.

In these caves 9,863 *Myotis sodalis* were banded in winter hibernation, 321 in summer, and 373 in the fall as they were returning to hibernation. Some banding was done during five consecutive winters and three summers, and recoveries were made each year. These recovery data are analyzed for seasonal movement, non-seasonal movement, and returns to same caves in winter and summer. The bands used were United States Fish and Wildlife 1 bird bands and #1B lipped bat bands.

Important parts of five caves were mapped for the purpose of plotting positions of bats throughout the year. The mapping was done with a Brunton Compass and tape measure or by means of pacing. Weight changes were studied by weighing bats in the field throughout the year. In Coach Cave, Edmonson County, Kentucky, guano was collected with a plastic sheet over a guano pile to study seasonal activity and feeding.

Geographic variation of *Myotis sodalis* was studied by examining 1,235 specimens contained in the above listed collections. All specimens are skins and skulls unless otherwise indicated in the list of specimens examined. Cranial measurements are those taken by the collectors. Seven cranial measurements were taken with an inside micrometer and ocular micrometer mounted in a binocular microscope in the following manner.

Greatest length: Distance from the anteriormost border of the premaxilla, exclusive of incisors, to the posterior limit of the braincase.

Condylbasilar length: Distance from the anteriormost border of the premaxilla, exclusive of incisors, to the posterior projection of the occipital.

Mastoidal breadth: Breadth of skull taken between the most lateral projections of the mastoids, just dorsal to the auditory bullae.

Width of braincase: Breadth of skull taken between the most lateral limits of the braincase.

Interorbital breadth: Taken as the least diameter of the interorbital constriction of the frontals.

basal breadth: Breadth of the rostrum taken between the vertical flat surfaces just anterior to the infraorbital foramen.

Mandibular length: The greatest length of the mandible, exclusive of incisors.

The mean, standard deviation, and standard error were calculated for measurements at each locality. Color was analyzed by establishing series of colors based on the mixture of brown and gray. Seven color series were set up as follows: 1) dark gray; 2) medium gray; 3) light gray; 4) dark brown; 5) medium brown; 6) light brown; and 7) reddish brown. Males and females were at first analyzed separately, until it became evident that no sexual dimorphism existed. For this reason all statistics are calculated from the combined sexes.

#### TAXONOMY

*Myotis sodalis* was described in 1928 by Miller and Allen in their report of North American *Myotis*. Since then many additional specimens have been collected to fill in the limits of the range of *M. sodalis*, yet these specimens have never been analyzed in regard to geographic variation and the race formation. With the greater number of specimens now available study of such variation is possible.

#### *Myotis sodalis* Miller and Allen

*sodalis* Miller and Allen, 1928. Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 144: p. 130.

*holotype*: Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard, 10980; adult male; skin and skull; collected 7 March 1904; by J. O. Sibert; from Lotte Cave, Crawford County, Indiana.

*distribution*: Mid-west and eastern United States from the western edge of the park region in Oklahoma to central Vermont, to southern Wisconsin; as far south as northern Florida. Distribution is associated with cavernous limestone areas and areas just north of cave regions.

Winter and summer ranges are plotted separately in figures 1 and 2. Winter distribution is not well known, but seems to coincide closely with summer distribution, except that there are records north of cave areas in places, such as northern Indiana and southern Michigan.

*description*: *Myotis sodalis* is a medium-sized, dark-colored *Myotis*. Small, but not as small as *M. californicus* or *M. subulatus*. Hairs on throat and inconspicuous. Color dark gray to dark brown to light brown but not glossy. Color of base of hairs dark black for over two-thirds of its length, followed by a narrow, grayish band, not sharply defined from black band of base. Tips of hair may be either dark gray to



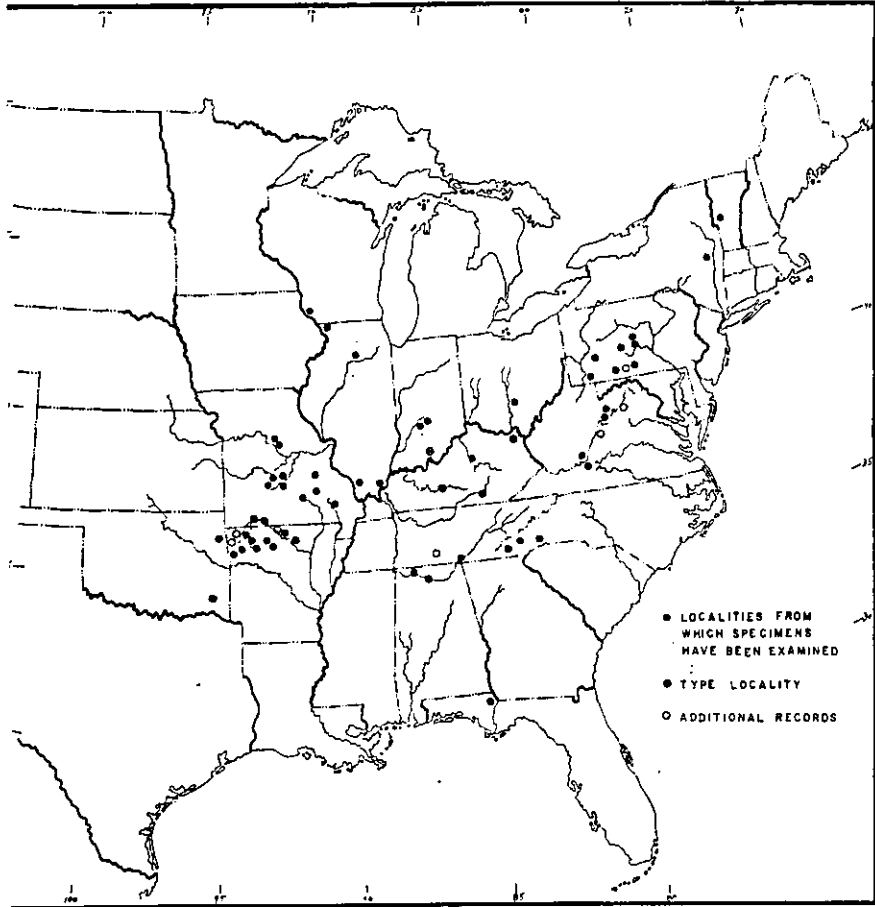


FIGURE 1. The distribution of winter colonies of *Myotis sadalis*.

lack or dark brown to light brown. When tips are brown, never glossy or burnished. Fur when viewed in yellow light sometimes gives an illusion of being tinted dark purple. Tri-coloration of fur weakly evident, since various bands not sharply delimited and dark gray tip may be same color as middle gray band.

Calcar strongly keeled (figure 3). On dry skin, keel evident as bump on posterior edge of interfemoral membrane. On fresh specimen, cartilaginous keel clearly seen by holding membrane before strong light. Skull rather delicate with rather narrow braincase (6.40-7.20 mm) and narrow interorbital region (3.29-4.27 mm). Teeth essentially indistinguishable from other similar-sized *Myotis*, with exception that cingulum of premolars rather heavy and prominent.

*Measurements:* See tables 1 and 2.

comparisons: *Myotis sodalis* is most easily confused with *Myotis lucifugus*. It is distinguished from *lucifugus* by its dark, non-glossy fur, which in *lucifugus* is a burnished, glossy brown. The dark band of the base of the ear in *lucifugus* is much darker, and more sharply delimited from the color of the tip. *M. lucifugus* has a larger foot, with long conspicuous hairs. In *lucifugus* the calcar is not keeled as in *sodalis* (figure 3). The skull of *lucifugus* is more robust, with a wider braincase (6.96–7.60 mm) and greater orbital breadth (3.62–4.25 mm).

*Myotis grisescens* is larger than *M. sodalis*; the hairs are an even gray from base to tip; the skull is larger, but proportions about the same as in *sodalis*; the sagittal crest much more pronounced than *sodalis*; and the calcar is not keeled.

*Myotis austroriparius* is similar in size to *sodalis*, but the fur is much

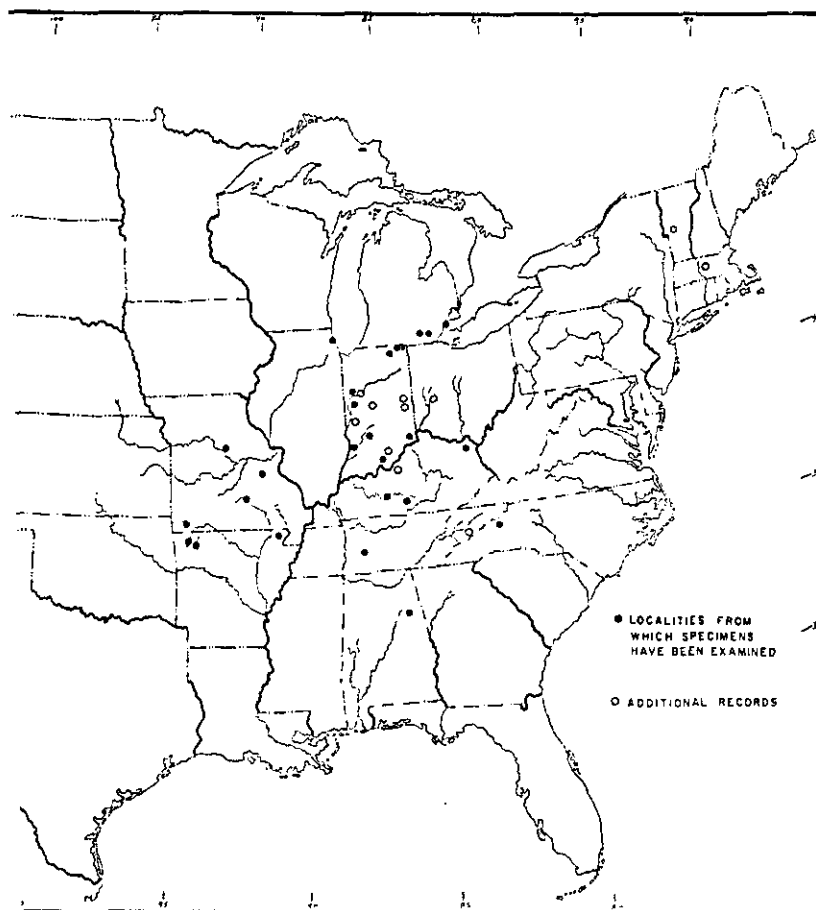


FIGURE 2. Summer records of *Myotis sodalis*.

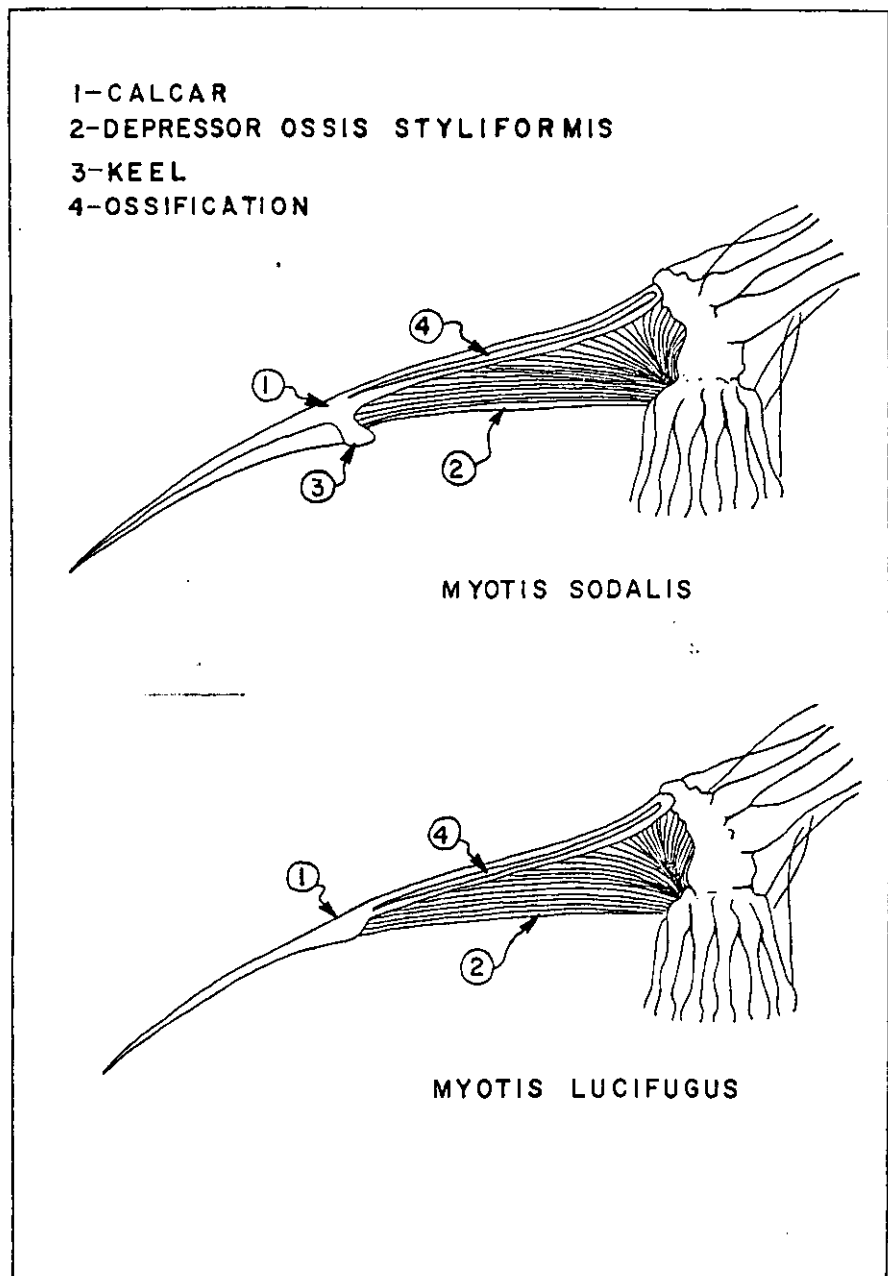


FIGURE 3. Right hind foot of *Myotis sodalis* and *Myotis lucifugus* with the skin removed to show the calcar and associated structures.

er, the color on the dorsum is orange-brown to buff-brown; the underparts are much whiter than *sodalis*; and the calcar is not keeled.

*Myotis velifer* is distinguished from *sodalis* in having a much lighter color; no keel on the calcar; and a skull which is larger, with maxillary teeth that are broader.

*Relationships:* The morphological similarity of *M. sodalis* to *M. lucifugus* might indicate close relationship. However, the habits of *sodalis* are different from those of *lucifugus* (see life history discussion). *M. sodalis* is a typical cave bat as is *M. velifer*, *M. grisescens*, and *M. austroriparius*. It is possible that *sodalis* represents one species of a group which gave rise to *velifer* and *grisescens*, if habits are to be taken as indications of relationships. Conversely, *sodalis* may have been derived from a group including *M. lucifugus*. The centers of population of *sodalis* are in the caves of Kentucky and Missouri. This species may well have split off from that of *M. lucifugus* in the southern portion of the range in association with large caves. The range of *lucifugus* includes nearly all the range of *sodalis* at the present time, but the major centers of population of *lucifugus* are in the northern United States.

*Molt:* Adults apparently molt once each year during early summer. A few specimens have been collected in summer, and they do not represent a good time series. The period of molting is probably rather short, ending by the middle of June. Male specimens from Shannon County, Missouri, on 30 May show no sign of molting. Male and female specimens from 11 June to 16 June in Edmonson County, Kentucky, and Madison County, Arkansas, show definite indications of molting in process. This is indicated by the lack of distinct banding of the fur. The new hair pushing through, the old dropping out gives the skin a dark grayish appearance, with no indication of distinct color bands to the fur. One specimen collected on 2 July in Edmonson County, Kentucky, shows signs of molting. However, other specimens collected at this time show no such evidence of molting. Some variation must occur in molting time, since some specimens collected in mid-June show no evidence of molt. In a series of five males collected 13 June 1959, in Long's Cave, Edmonson County, Kentucky, three showed sign of molting and two did not.

*Geographic Variation:* Color of coat can be divided into two groups as follows: 1) those which are gray to black; and 2) those that have brownish tinge to the fur. A gray color lacking traces of brown is more typical. The fraction of gray-brown specimens is plotted for various localities in figure 1. The smallest fraction of brown is in central Kentucky and the largest percentages of brown specimens are on the periphery of the range in southern Missouri, eastern West Virginia, and Vermont. The population in northern Illinois has a low fraction of brown. Some areas have too few specimens to give any meaning to this fraction, such as southern Illinois, northern North Carolina, and southeast Missouri. The one specimen from

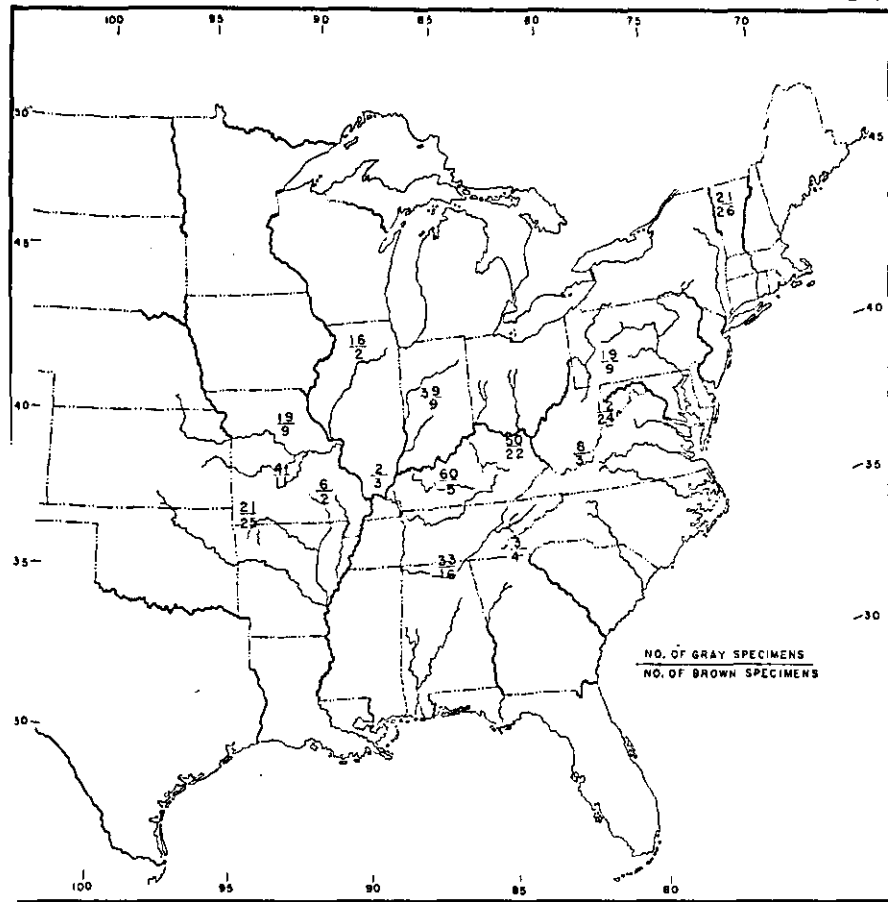


FIGURE 4. Geographic variation of color in *Myotis sodalis*.

northern Florida is not included in figure 4. It is reddish brown and this color was noticed in a few other specimens from other localities.

The Vermont specimens seem to have a more distinct banding to the fur, with the black bases being set off more sharply from the color band at the tip of the hair. The hairs on the feet appear to be a little longer on Vermont specimens. These differences do not seem strong enough to warrant a subspecific designation for this population.

The grayish and brownish color is typical for *M. sodalis*. A number of large variants have been noted in the examination of specimens. These color variants show various degrees of whiteness in the fur as follows: 1) one small white spot on mid-dorsum: Pulaski County, Missouri (UI) (spot  $5 \times 20$  mm); Pulaski County, Missouri (UI) (spot  $10 \times 10$  mm); Pendleton County, West Virginia (WGF) (spot very small); 2) white hairs dispersed

Locality			Length	Condylor- basilar	Mastoidal breadth	Width of brain- case	Inter- orbital breadth	Nasal breadth	Mandibular breadth
Southeastern Kentucky	(10)	Number	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
		Mean $\pm$ S.E.	14.52 $\pm$ .05	13.77 $\pm$ .05	7.38 $\pm$ .08	6.92 $\pm$ .03	4.36 $\pm$ .04	10.82 $\pm$ .05	
		Range	14.25-14.85	13.45-14.05	7.08-7.65	6.73-7.14	4.00-4.55	10.45-11.20	
Eastern Kentucky Southern Ohio	(11)	Number	71	69	71	72	72	72	70
		Mean $\pm$ S.E.	14.37 $\pm$ .03	13.68 $\pm$ .03	7.38 $\pm$ .02	6.85 $\pm$ .02	3.73 $\pm$ .01	4.36 $\pm$ .02	10.63 $\pm$ .03
		Range	13.85-14.90	13.00-14.25	7.05-7.77	6.43-7.20	3.29-4.08	3.98-4.87	10.15-11.05
Southeast Tennessee	(12)	Number	44	43	42	44	45	45	46
		Mean $\pm$ S.E.	14.42 $\pm$ .04	13.70 $\pm$ .04	7.37 $\pm$ .03	6.81 $\pm$ .02	3.71 $\pm$ .02	4.36 $\pm$ .03	10.71 $\pm$ .04
		Range	13.85-15.05	13.20-14.20	7.00-7.65	6.45-7.12	3.50-4.13	4.05-4.73	10.25-11.20
Western North Carolina	(13)	Number	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
		Mean $\pm$ S.E.	14.61 $\pm$ .12	13.74 $\pm$ .10	7.28 $\pm$ .06	6.79 $\pm$ .06	3.74 $\pm$ .07	4.41 $\pm$ .08	10.77 $\pm$ .09
		Range	14.25-15.00	13.35-14.10	7.15-7.55	6.55-7.02	3.62-3.82	4.10-4.72	10.50-11.10
Southeast West Virginia	(14)	Number	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
		Mean $\pm$ S.E.	14.35 $\pm$ .08	13.62 $\pm$ .10	7.34 $\pm$ .04	6.83 $\pm$ .04	3.73 $\pm$ .04	4.39 $\pm$ .03	10.53 $\pm$ .07
		Range	13.70-14.55	12.95-14.05	7.07-7.52	6.62-6.97	3.55-3.91	4.26-4.59	10.05-10.80
Eastern West Virginia	(15)	Number	36	36	36	36	36	36	35
		Mean $\pm$ S.E.	14.52 $\pm$ .03	13.78 $\pm$ .05	7.40 $\pm$ .02	6.86 $\pm$ .02	3.71 $\pm$ .03	4.38 $\pm$ .03	10.72 $\pm$ .04
		Range	13.90-15.05	13.00-14.30	7.15-7.67	6.59-7.24	3.55-3.94	4.03-4.80	10.25-11.15
Southwestern Pennsylvania	(16)	Number	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
		Mean $\pm$ S.E.	14.25 $\pm$ .25	13.55 $\pm$ .15	7.32 $\pm$ .06	6.79 $\pm$ .08	3.78 $\pm$ .03	4.31 $\pm$ .07	10.40 $\pm$ .06
		Range	14.15-14.35	13.30-13.70	7.21-7.37	6.66-6.90	3.72-3.89	4.12-4.45	10.20-10.55
Central Pennsylvania	(17)	Number	15	13	12	14	14	14	14
		Mean $\pm$ S.E.	14.44 $\pm$ .11	13.82 $\pm$ .10	7.40 $\pm$ .04	6.89 $\pm$ .04	3.73 $\pm$ .03	4.37 $\pm$ .04	10.64 $\pm$ .09
		Range	13.60-15.20	13.20-14.35	7.18-7.61	6.60-7.15	3.53-3.96	4.20-4.66	10.20-11.30
New York Vermont	(18)	Number	38	38	36	37	39	38	37
		Mean $\pm$ S.E.	14.48 $\pm$ .03	13.76 $\pm$ .04	7.39 $\pm$ .02	6.87 $\pm$ .02	3.68 $\pm$ .02	4.29 $\pm$ .02	10.67 $\pm$ .02
		Range	14.10-15.00	13.30-14.35	7.17-7.67	6.62-7.19	3.43-3.96	4.07-4.63	10.30-11.30

throughout fur: Edmonson County, Kentucky (KU) (U1), three specimens; Carter County, Kentucky (U1), three specimens; Pendleton County, West Virginia (AMNH); Camden County, Missouri (UM); 3) fur white, but wings and membranes normally pigmented: Newton County, Arkansas (AZ); Iron County, Missouri (UM); Carter County, Kentucky (JSH). Letzger (1956) reported collecting an *M. sodalis* in Carter County, Kentucky, which was white except for the wing membranes and ears.

The means, ranges, and standard errors are given for four external measurements and seven skull measurements in tables 1 and 2 for 18 grouped localities, which cover the entire range of the species. There is little variation in these measurements over the range of *M. sodalis*. At the extremes of the range are populations in Vermont and those in the Ozark area of Missouri and Arkansas. No significant variation is seen between these two populations. Those from the southern Ozarks (1) have a mean length of body 2.7 mm larger than the Vermont series, but the standard errors are 1.3 and 2.1, indicating that these differences are not significant. The means for the other three external measurements are all less than 1 mm different in the two extreme populations. Likewise, there are no significant differences in means of external measurements between any of the other 16 localities.

Measurements of the skull are much more reliable than external measurements, because they can be made more accurately, and usually one person does the measuring. The lack of variation is even more striking with the more refined measurements of the skull. Again, in comparing populations at the extremes of the range, the means for six of the skull measurements are very similar for the Vermont population (18) and the southern Ozark population (1) (table 2). One measurement, nasal breadth, is significantly smaller at the 1 percent level for Vermont specimens ( $4.29 \pm .02$ ) than for Ozark populations ( $4.41 \pm .03$ ).

The life history studies indicate that movements of individual groups of *M. sodalis* may be restricted to certain areas within the total range. Many records of movement were obtained between central Kentucky, Indiana, eastern Kentucky, and southern Ohio. No records were obtained for movement between Kentucky and Missouri. It is postulated that river routes are used in navigation and that this tends to break the species up into populations which remain isolated, because their routes of movement do not overlap. For this reason variation should be consistent with these isolated populations. All localities involved in the movement records for Kentucky and Indiana (7-10 of tables 1 and 2) were combined to obtain means for 2 measurements and were compared with the means obtained for all the Ozark populations (1-4 of tables 1 and 2). The differences between means of these grouped localities are less than for the individual localities mentioned above. This is probably due to the increase in sample size. If the establishment of populational ranges has acted as an isolating mechanism,

nabia, 3 (OAM); *Adair County*: (1) Adair Cave, 5 mi. S Little Kansas, 2 (OAM); PENNSYLVANIA: *Westmoreland County*: (16) Hillside, 2 (CM); *Mifflin County*: (17) Kin Cave, 1 mi. NE Siglerville, 2 (AMNH), 1 skel. (AMNH), 7 (CU), 1 (MVZ); (1) Maitland Cave, Lewistown, 2 (KU); *Franklin County*: (17) Kittatinny Tunnel, Liberty, 1 (UF), 1 (RPM); (17) Blue Mt. Tunnel, 1 (RPM); (17) Tuscarora Tunnel, RPM; *Fayette County*: (16) Dulany Cave, 7½ mi. SE Uniontown, 3 (CM); *Greene County*: (17) Penn's Cave, Center Hall, 10 (CU), 3 (RPM); (17) Woodward Cave, Woodward, 6 (USNM), 1 (RPM); *Huntingdon County*: (17) Historic Indian Cave, 1 (RPM); *Bedford County*: (17) Hipple Cave, 5 (RPM); TENNESSEE: *Marion County*: (12) Nickajack Cave, 3 mi. S Jasper, 1 (UF), 2 (WGF), 25 (MVZ), 3 (KU), RPM; VERMONT: *Rutland County*: (18) Brandon, 3 (MVZ), 2 (USNM); (18) Skwackett Bat Cave, North Clarendon (Clarendon) (Proctor), 4 (AMNH), 9 (MCZ), (USNM), 16 (MVZ); VIRGINIA: *Giles County*: (14) Tony's Cave, 2 mi. N Newport, CM; WEST VIRGINIA: *Monroe County*: (14) Greenville Saltpetre Cave, Greenville, (UI); *Pendleton County*: (15) Trout Cave, 16 (WGF); (15) Smoke Hole, 20 MNH); WISCONSIN: *Grant County*: (6) Atkinson's Diggings, 2¼ mi. W Beetown, (UI).

*Summer*: Total number 56 from the following localities:

ALABAMA: *Calhoun County*: Weaver's Cave, Anniston, 1 ale. (MCZ); ARKANSAS: *Madison County*: Bat Cave, 5 mi. NW War Eagle, 1 (KU); *Madison County*: Denney Cave, 5 mi. E Alabam, 2 (KU); *Clay County*: Greenway, 2 (CNHM); ILLINOIS: *Cook County*: F.M.N.H. Bldg., Chicago, 1 (CNHM); INDIANA: *Crawford County*: Wyante Cave, 3 ale. (USNM); *Greene County*: Ray's Cave, 2 (REM); *Parke County*: Key Run State Park, 1 (WGF), 1 (REM), 1 (NW), 2 (CNHM); *Steuben County*: 2 mi. E Orland, 2 (REM); *Warren County*: 7 mi. E and 1½ mi. N Pine Village, REM; *La Grange County*: 2 mi. W and ¼ mi. N Mongo, 1 (REM); *Montgomery County*: Shades State Park, 1 mummy (NW); *Ripley County*: Friendship, 2 (NW); *Sciasko County*: Shock Lake, No. Webster, 1 (JMM); *Knob County*: Wheathand, ale. (USNM); Bicknell, 1 ale. (USNM); KENTUCKY: *Edmonson County*: Coach Cave, Park City, 1 (UI); Long's Cave, Mammoth Cave National Park, 6 (UI); Dixon Cave, Mammoth Cave National Park, 7 (UI), 2 (UK); *Adair County*: Jones Cave, Lumbia, 1 (NW); *Carter County*: Bat Cave, Carter Caves State Park, 1 (UI); MICHIGAN: *Washenaw County*: 6 mi. WNW Chelsea, 1 (UMMZ); Ann Arbor, 1 (MMZ); *Wayne County*: Grosse Isle, 1 (USNM); MISSOURI: *Boone County*: Columbia, 1 (UM); *Shannon County*: Bat Cave, 2 (UI); *Franklin County*: Mushroom Cave, Meramec State Park, 2 (UM); *Barry County*: Cassville, 2 (UMMZ); NORTH CAROLINA: *Mitchell County*: Roan Mt., Littlerock Creek, 1 ale. (USNM); TENNESSEE: *Kman County*: 1 (AMNH).

*Additional Records*: *Winter*: ARKANSAS: *Baxter County*: Twigly Cave, 1 mi. E dway (Sealander and Young, 1955); *Benton County*: Logan Cave, 8 mi. E Siloam Diggins (*ibid.*); Cave Springs Cave, at Cave Springs (*ibid.*); OHIO: *Highland County*: Ole and Mouthrop, 1942); PENNSYLVANIA: *Westmoreland County*: Bear Cave (Mohr, 1932b); *Bedford County*: New Paris Caves (*ibid.*); *Fulton County*: Sideling Hill Tunnel (*ibid.*); TENNESSEE: *Bedford County*: Ward Cave (Kellogg, 1939); VIRGINIA: *Montgomery County*: Nellie's Hole (Handley and Patton, 1947); *Shenandoah County*: Madden's Cave (*ibid.*); *Bath County*: Withero's Cave (*ibid.*).

*Summer*: INDIANA: *Tippecanoe County*: Lafayette (Kirkpatrick and Conaway, 1958) (Mumford and Cope, 1958); *Marion County*: Indianapolis (present study); *Clay County*: Brazil (Mumford and Cope, 1958); *Washington County*: (*ibid.*); *Wayne County*: Centerville (*ibid.*); *Montgomery County*: (*ibid.*); *Randolph County*: Winster (present study); KENTUCKY: *Ballitt County*: Shepherdsville (present study);



of *M. sodalis* and *M. lucifugus* is shown in figure 6. These two species differ enough in regard to these three measurements to show clearly that the skulls from the bone deposit are those of *M. sodalis*.

Flooding of the cave obviously destroyed this *sodalis* colony. The vertical distance of the passage above the base level of the river was measured with a level sight and rod. A cross-sectional diagram of the cave indicating the relationship of the cave with recent flood levels of the river is shown in figure 7. In order to flood the passage the river must rise to 49 feet. In 1937 the Green River flooded to about 58 feet in this area (Records of Mammoth Cave National Park). The river represents the water table in this limestone area. Any rising of the river causes the water table all through the surrounding limestone to rise.

The volume of a sample of the bone deposit was measured and the number of individuals in that volume determined by picking out the humeri (whole or distal ends). From only 18 cubic inches of deposit, 380 humeri

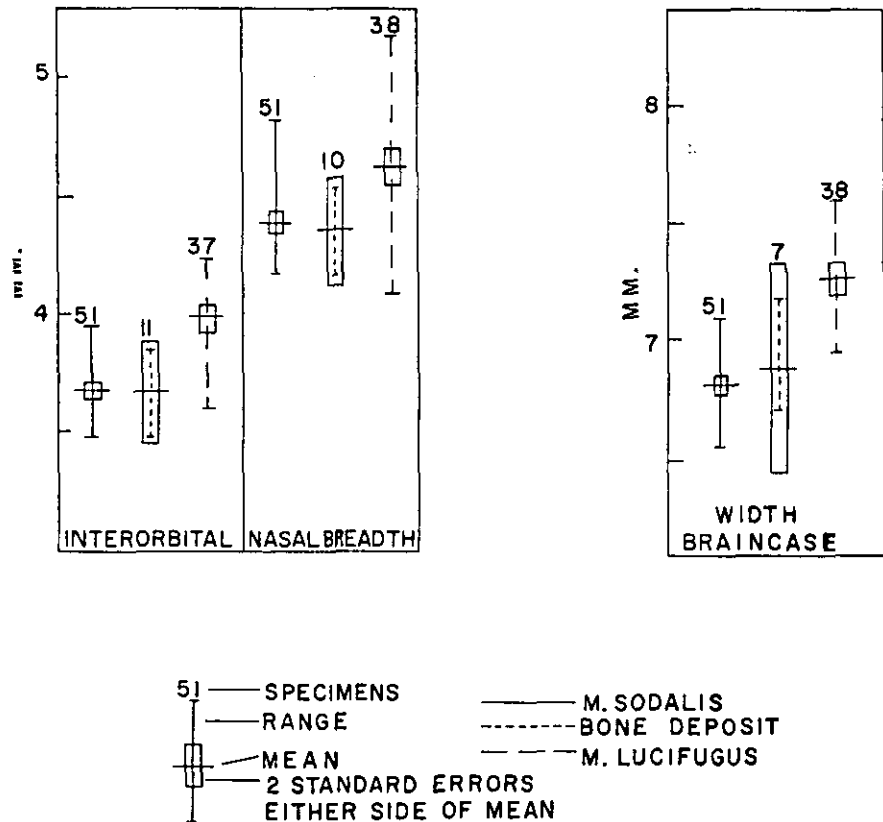


FIGURE 6. Comparisons of three skull measurements of bone deposit in Bat Cave, Madison County, Kentucky, with recent *Myotis sodalis* and *Myotis lucifugus*.

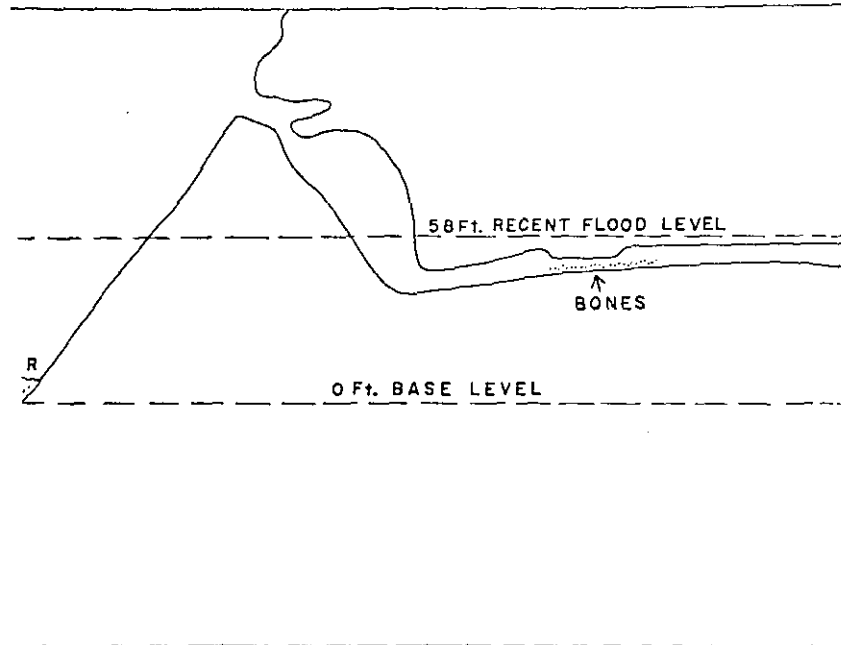


FIGURE 7. Cross-sectional diagram of Bat Cave, Edmonson County, Kentucky, showing the location of the bat bone deposit in relation to recent flood level of Green River.

recovered, representing about 200 individuals. A minimal estimate of total deposit is 15 cubic feet, being composed of an estimated 300,000 individual bats. This *sodalis* colony was considerably larger than the largest colony in the area (100,000). It may indicate a past, greater abundance of the species.

#### EASTERN KENTUCKY POPULATIONS

There are several areas in a limited portion of eastern Kentucky where caves are abundant. One such area is in Jessamine and Garrard counties. Although this area was not surveyed during this study, two specimens were examined from a cave in Jessamine County. Another "cave system" occurs in southeastern Kentucky along the Cumberland River in Madison and Wayne counties. Study of this area, in summer only, produced no *M. sodalis*, but a series of winter specimens were examined from Round Cave, Pulaski County (UMMZ).

A number of medium-sized caves occur in northeastern Kentucky in Boone County. One, Bat Cave, has a large wintering population of about 100,000 *M. sodalis*. This is one of the four large winter colonies known. Population has been large for many years and is well known. Welter and Berger (1939) reported that 100,000 *sodalis* hibernated there in 1937.

## SOUTH-CENTRAL INDIANA POPULATIONS

A tongue of cavernous limestone extends from the Ohio River in southern Indiana, north about 80 miles to Owen, Monroe, and Brown counties. The largest caves are in the south, with Wyandotte the largest. *Myotis sodalis* occurs in Wyandotte and to the north near the northern limits of the limestone in central Indiana. The winter population in Wyandotte Cave is similar in size to Long's, Colossal, and Dixon caves in central Kentucky, with 2,000 to 3,000 individuals.

About sixty miles north of Wyandotte there are several caves with hibernating colonies of *M. sodalis*. These are all close to the White River, a tributary of the Wabash. There appear to be no populations of *sodalis* in the area between Wyandotte Cave and this northern area. Ray's Cave, Greene County, is much smaller than any of the previously mentioned caves. The colony of *sodalis* apparently fluctuates greatly in this cave. In the winter of 1958-1959 only about 100 were in the cave, but the next winter about 500 were seen. These small populations of *sodalis* fluctuate considerably from year to year. Coon's Cave, Monroe County, only a few miles from Ray's Cave, has a very small colony. Nine were seen here in 1957-1958 and none in 1958-1959. Grotto Cave, one-half mile from Coon's Cave, was visited only once and it contained about 200 *sodalis*. This is also a rather small cave, when compared to the caves of southern Indiana and Kentucky.

## OZARK POPULATIONS

The Ozark region of southern Missouri, northern Arkansas, and northwestern Oklahoma contains hundreds of caves. Several wintering colonies of *sodalis* are found along the Casconade River in Phelps and Pulaski counties, Missouri. Tunnel Cave, Pulaski County, contained a medium-sized colony in 1954, when Wayne H. Davis banded 1,300 *sodalis* here. When I visited the cave in 1958 only 200 *sodalis* could be found. It seems that this population has decreased markedly in only four years. The reason for this is apparently human disturbance by the increasing number of so-called cave explorers. As a result, the bats have left except for a small remnant. Declines of bat populations due to human disturbance have been noted in the northeastern United States by Mohr (1953). Small colonies of *sodalis* are found in Onyx and Piquet caves, Pulaski County (table 3).

Bat Cave, Shannon County, Missouri, along the Current River in southern Missouri, was visited once in April 1959. The population was then about 100,000. Nothing is known of the past population here since it was only discovered in 1958 by Richard Myers. He has told me that when he visited the cave in 1958 the population was about 50,000.

Fifty miles northeast of Bat Cave, Shannon County, there is a large

ny in an abandoned mine tunnel, Pilot Knob Mine, Iron County. I did not visit the mine, but Myers gave me information concerning this mine and showed me photographs of the huge clusters of *sodalis*. This mine, because of its danger, has little human disturbance. The mine is one of the four places where large colonies of *sodalis* are found. It has been inaccessible to bats for about 50 years.

Sealander and Young (1955) found *sodalis* hibernating in 11 caves in northern Arkansas. The populations were all small, the largest cluster observed contained only 34 bats. Thus it appears that large populations of *sodalis* do not exist in northern Arkansas.

The Ozark cave region extends into eastern Oklahoma. In a study of caves in the area, Glass and Ward (1959) found two *sodalis* in Adair Cave, Adair County, and three individuals in Bower's Trail Cave, Pushmataha County, in the Ouachita biotic district.

#### NORTHERN ILLINOIS-SOUTHERN WISCONSIN POPULATIONS

*Myotis sodalis* has evidently dispersed northward by way of the Mississippi and Illinois rivers. The species has been found in two mine tunnels west of the Mississippi River. One is in the northwest corner of Illinois (Pilot Knob Mine, Galena, Jo Daviess County). Smith and Parmalee (1954) found three individuals in the mine in 1953. Davis and Lidicker (1955) found a single individual in southern Wisconsin in a mine tunnel beside the Mississippi River (Atkinson's Diggings, Grant County).

A small colony hibernates in a large, abandoned cement mine in La Salle County, Illinois, close to the Illinois River (Blackball Mine, La Salle County). The mine includes about 40 acres underground, but the small colony of *sodalis* was always found in the same precise spot. This made it possible to learn something of fluctuations in numbers. The mine was visited many times each winter and exact counts were made of the *sodalis*. The maximum number each winter has decreased gradually from 1953 to 1960.

In 1953 Davis banded 600 *sodalis* in this mine. In 1956 the maximum number was 337 and in 1960 only 120 *sodalis* were found. This mine has been visited by many persons, including vandals and professional collectors (Sanborn, 1951). This disturbance has resulted in a decline of the population in this mine. The colony has apparently been established from the south, either out of either the Ozark population or the Kentucky-Indiana population. The dispersal route has evidently been the Mississippi and Illinois rivers.

#### SOUTHERN ILLINOIS POPULATIONS

A small number of *sodalis* hibernate in caves in extreme southern Illinois. In 1953 W. H. Davis found 83 in Cave Spring Cave, Hardin County. In 1957 I found none in two visits and only two individuals in

1958. The colony in this cave fluctuates considerably from year to year. One specimen was examined from Guthrie Cave, Cobden County.

Like the northern Illinois population, this group must have been derived from either the Ozark area to the west or the Kentucky-Indiana area to the east. Many caves were searched in western Kentucky, but no *sodalis* were found.

#### OTHER AREAS

Winter colonies of *M. sodalis* occur along the Tennessee River in northern Alabama and southeastern Tennessee. Mohr (1932a) reported 1,500 in Nickajack Cave, Marion County, Tennessee, and five in Saltpetre Cave, Lauderdale County, Alabama. Wayne H. Davis banded 389 in Hughes Cave, Morgan County, Alabama, in 1955. There are many caves in this area, and it seems that medium-sized and small winter populations occur here. From this area a few have apparently dispersed over the Appalachian Divide into northern Florida. Jennings and Layne (1957) found one individual in a cave in Jackson County.

From Alabama the range of *M. sodalis* extends northward with its eastern edge closely approximating the limestone region and the Appalachian Divide. The species has dispersed over the Divide in a few places where it is present just west of the Divide. The pattern of dispersal is easily seen. The species is found in western North Carolina along the Little Tennessee River, a short tributary of the Tennessee River. The one locality for the species east of the Divide in North Carolina is just 50 miles from the head waters of the Little Tennessee River. This same type of relationship exists for a few localities east of the Divide in Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. The species has dispersed to a considerable distance from the Mississippi River drainage in the northeast as far as Vermont.

Little is known of population size in the east and north. Wayne H. Davis banded *sodalis* in 11 caves in West Virginia. The greatest number banded in one cave was 514. Mohr (1932b, 1942) reported populations in 12 caves and tunnels in Pennsylvania. The largest colony was 2,000 in Penn's Cave, Centre County, and the rest were 500 or less.

Griffin (1940) reported maximum numbers of *sodalis* seen in several caves in the northeast. However, it is possible that some of these were misidentified *M. lucifugus* (Griffin, in litt.). I have examined specimens of *sodalis* collected by Griffin from only two localities. One is Haile's Cave, Albany County, New York. He reported seeing only eight in this cave. The other is a cave in Crittenden, or North Crittenden, Rutland County, Vermont. Griffin reported that he banded 241 in this cave. Apparently no large populations are present in the eastern and northeastern parts of the range. The cave area of Missouri and Kentucky is the center of abundance of the species.

## SEX RATIOS

A number of workers have reported a disproportionate sex ratio among bats that are found hibernating in caves of eastern United States and Canada (Griffin, 1940; Mohr, 1945; Hitchcock, 1949; and Davis, 1959). These reports indicate that male bats comprise from 60 percent to 80 percent of hibernating populations of *Myotis keenii*, *Myotis lucifugus*, *Myotis subulatus*, *Eptesicus fuscus*, and *Pipistrellus subflavus*. These works have shown considerable variation in the sex ratios from one cave to another and from one area to another. It has been noted that sex ratios become more nearly equal in the southern parts of the United States (Davis, 1959). There has been much discussion about the probable reasons for the presence of more males in caves in winter. Davis (1959) presents evidence from banding records to indicate that female *Pipistrellus subflavus* may have a higher mortality rate than males. His evidence is based on the fact that banded males are recovered in greater numbers than banded females from year to year in any one cave. Other explanations are that females may winter elsewhere or may tend to move from one hibernating cave to another more than males.

Sex ratios of *Myotis sodalis* in winter hibernating colonies were calculated for 15 caves in six states (table 4). In most instances the sex ratio of *M. sodalis* was about even. The only ones that even approached the disproportionate ratio reported for other bats are those for the colonies in Blackball Mine, La Salle County, Illinois, and three caves in West Virginia. In Blackball Mine males comprised 60, 65, 61, 61, and 59 percent of the population during different years. In three caves in West Virginia males comprised 63, 72, and 76 percent of the populations in one year. On a few occasions female *M. sodalis* were found in greater abundance. In Long's Cave, Kentucky, during the winter of 1958-1959, males were calculated to comprise 39 percent of the population and in the winter of 1960-1961, 43 percent. Again, in Long's Cave, Kentucky, males comprised 32 percent of the population. However, samples taken at other times in these caves contained about equal numbers of both sexes.

The few caves which had a greater proportion of male *M. sodalis* were of small populations—39 to 600 individuals. However, other small populations were found to have an even sex ratio. The percentage of about 60 percent males at Blackball Mine, Illinois, seems to be a reality, since it was observed during five consecutive years. The four caves with a higher percentage of males still did not approach the high values for other species. An explanation might be that female *M. sodalis* do not have a higher mortality rate than males, except in some areas of its range. These four caves, at the edges of the range in northern Illinois and eastern West Virginia, may be a factor in determining these sex ratios. An analysis of banding records and bearing on survival in *M. sodalis* will be published at a later date.

TABLE 4. SEX RATIOS OF *Myotis sodalis* FROM WINTER COLONIES IN KENTUCKY, INDIANA, ILLINOIS, MISSOURI, WEST VIRGINIA, AND ALABAMA

Cave	Percent Male	Total bats counted	Year	Population
Kentucky				
Coach, Edmonson Co.	55	1,110	'56-'57	100,000
Coach, Edmonson Co.	49	146	'57-'58	100,000
Coach, Edmonson Co.	50	168	'57-'58	100,000
Coach, Edmonson Co.	39	770	'58-'59	100,000
Coach, Edmonson Co.	43	1,158	'60-'61	100,000
Bat, Carter Co.	51	1,294	'56-'57	100,000
Colossal, Edmonson Co.	51	181	'57-'58	1,000
Colossal, Edmonson Co.	41	450	'58-'59	2,250
Long's, Edmonson Co.	46	672	'58-'59	2,000
Long's, Edmonson Co.	32	175	'58-'59	1,500
Indiana				
Ray's, Greene Co.	46	85	'58-'59	100
Ray's, Greene Co.	50	500	'59-'60	500
Illinois				
Blackball, La Salle Co.	60	572	'53-'54	572
Blackball, La Salle Co.	65	113	'56-'57	113
Blackball, La Salle Co.	61	90	'57-'58	90
Blackball, La Salle Co.	61	109	'58-'59	120
Blackball, La Salle Co.	59	118	'59-'60	118
Cave Spring, Hardin Co.	40	82	'53-'54	82
Missouri				
Tunnel, Pulaski Co.	58	579	'53-'54	1,200
Tunnel, Pulaski Co.	52	1,386	'54-'55	1,386
Muxey, Pulaski Co.	47	1,973	'54-'55	2,000
West Virginia				
Trout, Pendleton Co.	54	460	'51-'52	600
Trout, Pendleton Co.	48	665	'52-'53	665
Minor Rexroad, Pendleton Co.	51	514	'52-'53	600
Martha's, Pocahontas Co.	76	151	'52-'53	151
Blowing, Tucker Co.	63	119	'52-'53	119
McFerrin, Greenbrier Co.	72	39	'52-'53	39
Alabama				
Hughes, Morgan Co.	44	392	'54-'55	392

Incidental work with *Myotis grisescens* reveals that the sex ratio is also equal in this species in hibernating caves. During the winter of 1959-1960, in James Cave, Edmonson County, Kentucky, 1,444 were banded from a hibernating colony of over 100,000. The proportion of the sexes was exactly 50 percent each. In the winter of 1960-1961, the sex ratio of *grisescens* in this colony again was exactly even in a sample of 1,502.

#### COMPARISON OF SPECIES

The several species of bats found in the caves studied show differences in regard to the number of caves utilized and population sizes. These data indicate various degrees of aggregation of different species. *Pipistrellus*

*avus* was found in 40 (79 percent) of the 51 caves studied in winter, *Myotis lucifugus* in 27 (53 percent) of the caves, *Myotis sodalis* in 19 (37 percent), and *Myotis grisescens* in three (6 percent) of the caves. These 51 caves can be considered as a random group of caves, since as many different caves were explored as time allowed. Other species were encountered, but above four are the common bats in caves during the winter in this area.

A correlation exists between the number of caves used by a species, maximum numbers in caves, clustering habits, and size of geographic range. The pipistrelle is the most randomly distributed, but its numbers in caves are far less than the other species (table 5). It does not form clus-

TABLE 5. COMPARISONS OF FOUR SPECIES OF BATS AS TO CAVES FOUND IN, POPULATION NUMBERS, TYPE OF CLUSTER, AND GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Species	Number of caves in which species is found (51 studied)	Maximum number	Type of cluster	Geographic range
<i>Myotis subflavus</i>	40	500	None	Large
<i>M. lucifugus</i>	27	8,000	Semi-dense	Large
<i>M. sodalis</i>	19	100,000	Dense	Small
<i>M. grisescens</i>	3	100,000	Dense	Small

ters at any time. Its range is large, occupying all of eastern United States and Canada and continuing into Central America. *Myotis lucifugus* has a random distribution, using fewer caves than the pipistrelle. A cave may contain several thousand individuals. This bat forms semi-dense clusters, but not packed, tight clusters. Its range is also large, occupying most wooded areas of North America. *Myotis sodalis* and *Myotis grisescens* have a decidedly clumped type of distribution, being found in fewer caves than the other two species. However, they may accumulate in large numbers up to about a 100,000 maximum. Both species form tight and compact clusters. Their ranges are relatively small, being restricted to eastern and mid-west United States.

These data show various degrees of aggregation in the distribution of different wintering species. The basic behavior responsible for the type of distribution is the specific type of clustering habit for each species. The bats that have the habit of forming large, dense clusters have a restricted clumped type of distribution. The bats that form semi-dense clusters have a more dispersed or random distribution, and those that have an anti-clustering habit are most widely and randomly distributed. The details of clustering habits are discussed in the section dealing with hibernation.

#### DISCUSSION OF WINTER POPULATIONS

The distribution of winter populations of *Myotis sodalis* coincides closely with the areas of the mid-west region in the area drained by the Mississippi



River and its tributaries. Only a small part of the range is just east of the Appalachian Divide. The major populations are centered in areas of cave "nuclei," where there are many caves in a small area. Small populations may occur in any area where rather small caves occur. The vast majority of hibernating caves are close to major rivers. Dispersal probably has been accomplished by following riverways.

Hibernating populations occur in three sizes. The highest level is a population of about 100,000. Four such colonies are known: two in Kentucky and two in Missouri. The next level is a population of 1,000 to 3,000. The lowest level is less distinct, consisting of populations of 500 to only a few individuals.

The four large cave populations contain 97% of the total estimated number of *sodalis* in the 19 caves that were found to contain this species. It appears that the species will accumulate to a level of about 100,000 individuals in one cave which serves as a "headquarters." Other caves in the immediate vicinity may then be used if the population is too large for the one cave.

The habit of aggregation has been carried to an extreme degree in this species. Whether we can evaluate the adaptive significance of aggregation or not, such value surely exists for this species. It may be that the selection for this habit of aggregation has carried the species to a high level of specialization, where only a slight change in selective pressures could cause this habit to be a great danger to the species. The species now aggregates so intensively in winter that a few caves contain a high percentage of the total individuals of the species. One such population was destroyed by a sudden flooding in Bat Cave, in Mammoth Cave National Park. This deposit of bones so obviously represents a catastrophic death that its import for the species cannot be minimized. The habit of intense aggregation makes local catastrophe of great importance to the species. Local catastrophes mean little for a randomly distributed species, but become very important when a large portion of a species is aggregated in only a few small places. Thus, any selective pressure against aggregation could cause, very rapidly, a near or complete extinction of the species.

#### THE HIBERNATING PERIOD

Bats in temperate regions must either hibernate or migrate to warmer areas during the winter. *Myotis sodalis* is a species which hibernates by accumulating in caves. This period of hibernation lasts from fall until spring, when the bats leave the caves for a summer habitat. The actual length of hibernation is difficult to determine when speaking of individuals, but the period of hibernation for the population as a whole can be determined rather accurately. The period of hibernation of *M. sodalis* was

ed most critically at Blackball Mine, La Salle County, Illinois, and Long's, Coach, and Colossal caves, Edmonson County, Kentucky. The small *sodalis* colony in Blackball Mine, Illinois, consisting of 100 individuals, was always found in one particular area and in exact in this area. In figure 8 the numbers of *sodalis* observed on various throughout two winters are plotted. The earliest date for entrance hibernation was 14 September 1957. This was one individual only. major build-up of the colony occurs during October and the first part of November. Some variation of two to three weeks was observed in regard to time of entrance of the main colony over a four-year period. This

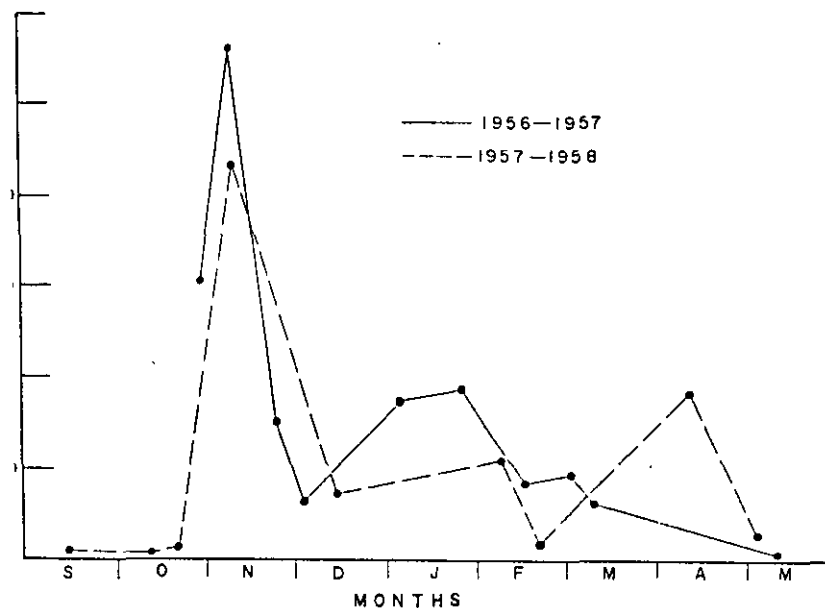


FIGURE 8. Numbers of *Myotis sodalis* seen at Blackball Mine, La Salle County, Illinois, during two winters.

entered later in 1957 than in 1958 and 1959. The colony seems to have been in hibernation earlier in 1956 than in the three subsequent years. The peak in numbers of *sodalis* was encountered in mid-November during both years when observations were made in November (figure 8). The fall of the colony then declined to about one-third maximum in mid-December. This was not merely a moving to another area of the mine, since the entire mine was searched on several occasions. As previously mentioned, the *sodalis* were always found in a precise area. The habit of going to set spots was noted in all caves where repeated observations were made.

This fluctuation apparently represents a movement out of the mine in late November. There seems to be an increase in numbers again in mid-

winter, followed by a sharp decline in late February. A sharp increase was seen once in early April (1958). Hibernation ends about the first week of May in this mine. Twelve *sodalis* were still hibernating on 2 May 1958 and none on 11 May 1957.

The fluctuations of numbers of *sodalis* indicate movements throughout the winter, which must involve an actual leaving and entering of the mine. Other points to which the species may be moving are not known. Similar movement of *Eptesicus fuscus* in and out of a cave during the winter in Indiana was reported by Mumford (1958). Krzanowski (1959) reports that bats come and go all winter in a cave at Pulawy, Poland, resulting in considerable variation of numbers and individuals throughout the winter.

Central Kentucky is a populational center for *sodalis* in winter. As previously mentioned, the species was seen in seven caves with populations of 60,000 in Coach Cave, 2,000 to 3,000 in Long's, Dixon, and Colossal caves, and 10 to 500 in James, Bat, and Wilson caves. The *sodalis* hibernate in a definite area in each cave. This area is close to the entrance in a zone where the temperature drops to 4° to 5° C in mid-winter. Farther within the cave there is an area of constant temperature, being about 12° to 14° C all year. In this area are located guano piles. At these piles *sodalis* are found in small clusters in winter in an active and non-hibernating condition. These are the same guano piles where *sodalis* may be found in summer, although they are not found in the hibernating areas in the summer. The guano piles are in an area of activity, whether it is winter or summer activity. The relationship of hibernating areas to active areas is shown for three caves in figures 9 to 12. The winter hibernation can be said to begin when bats are found torpid in the hibernating areas. On 1 September 1959, no *sodalis* were hibernating in Dixon, Long's, and Colossal caves. In Coach Cave, about 50 were in the hibernating area marked A in figure 9. There were clusters of active *sodalis* numbering several hundred at the guano piles in Dixon, Long's, and Coach caves. The sex ratios at the piles were 45 percent females : 55 percent male (Dixon Cave) and 67 percent female : 33 percent male (Coach Cave). These bats were carrying on normal feeding activities at night, as during the summer months. However, the sex ratio at these piles in mid-summer is 95 to 100 percent males. Thus by September 1, the females were returning to the hibernation caves, but were not yet in hibernation. The fact that there were a few in hibernation in Coach Cave on this date indicates that the period of hibernation may have been just beginning.

One month later, on October 3, hibernation had truly begun, but only a small fraction of the bats had entered hibernation. About 1,000 were in the hibernation area of Dixon Cave. These were clustered near the back part of the hibernating area. The normal mid-winter population is about 3,000. In Coach Cave about 2,500 were in hibernation in the areas marked A, C, and D, and in areas close to the guano pile F (figure 9). Most, about

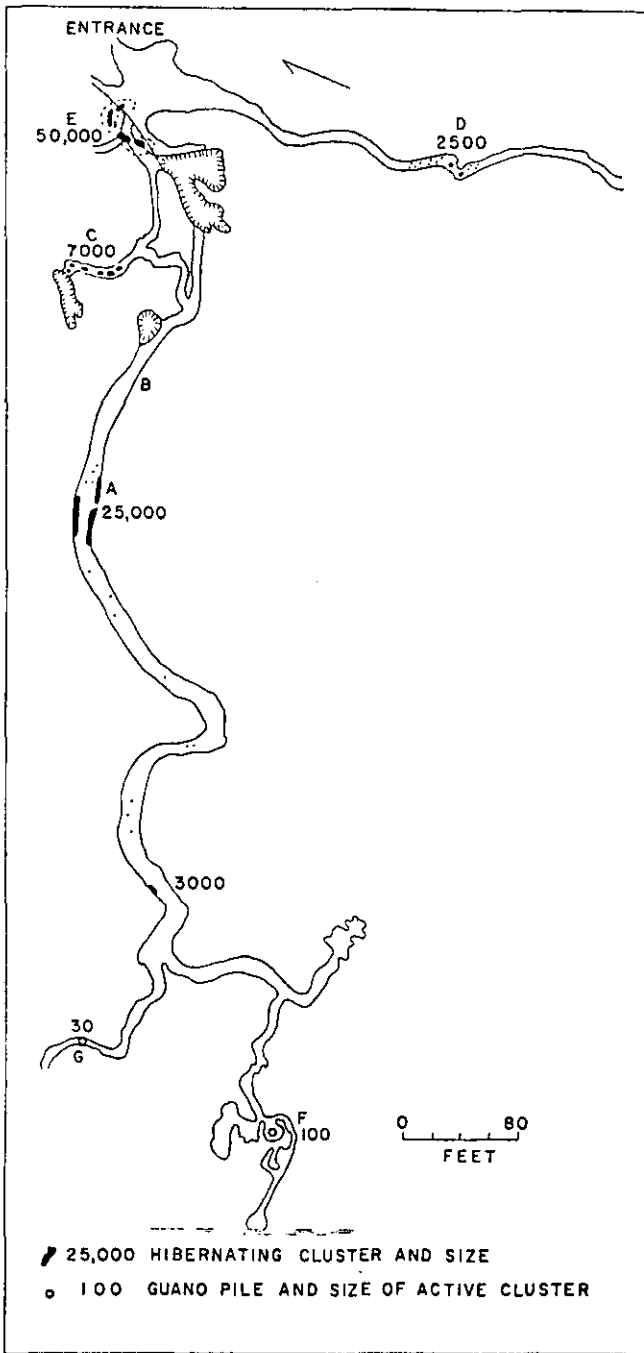


FIGURE 9. Position of hibernating and active clusters of *Myotis sodalis* in Couch, Edmonson County, Kentucky, on 1 January 1959.

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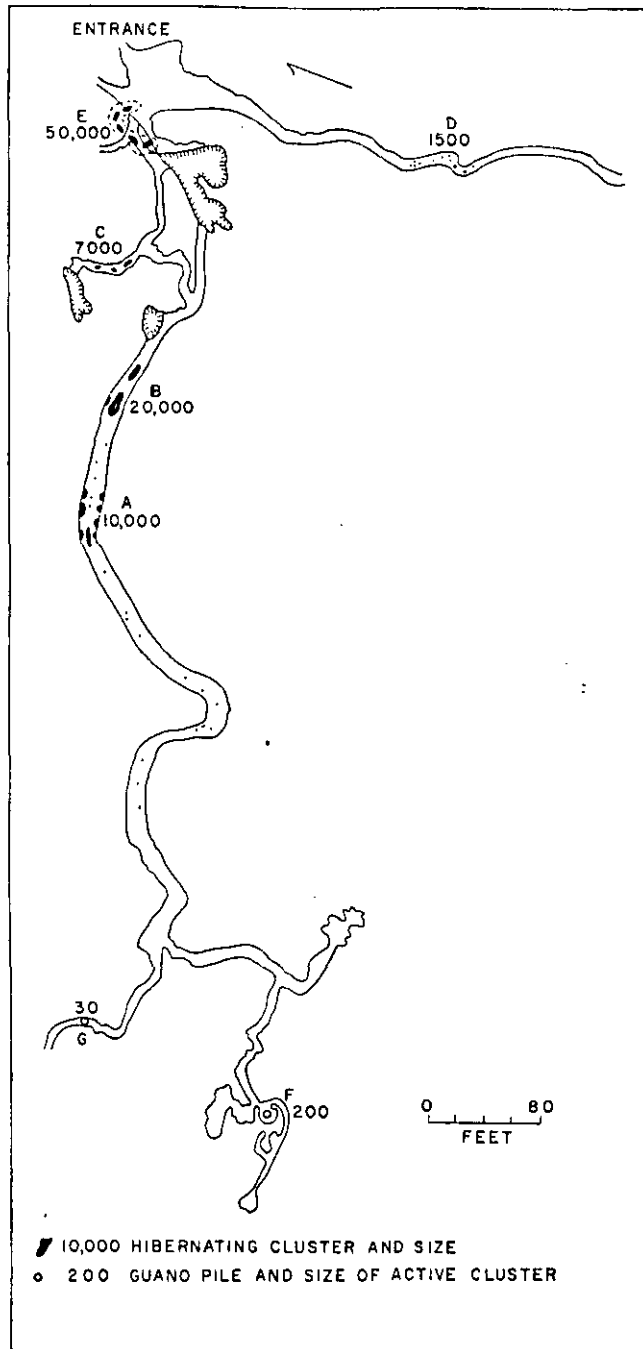


FIGURE 10. Position of hibernating and active clusters of *Myotis sodalis* in Coach cave, Edmonson County, Kentucky, on 27 March 1959.

), were in area A in the exact spot where the large clusters form in early er. The maximum winter population in this cave is about 100,000. sex ratio of the hibernating clusters was 26 percent female : 74 percent . Many more bats were at the guano piles than in September. In n Cave a total of about 1,500 male and female *sodalis* were clustered and the guano-pile area. These were feeding at night and carrying on ng activities. Another group of non-hibernating bats was present at spot marked A in figure 14. About 3,000 *sodalis* were clustered here. cluster was still present on October 9, but was never seen at any other of the year. These individuals are interpreted as being transient bats

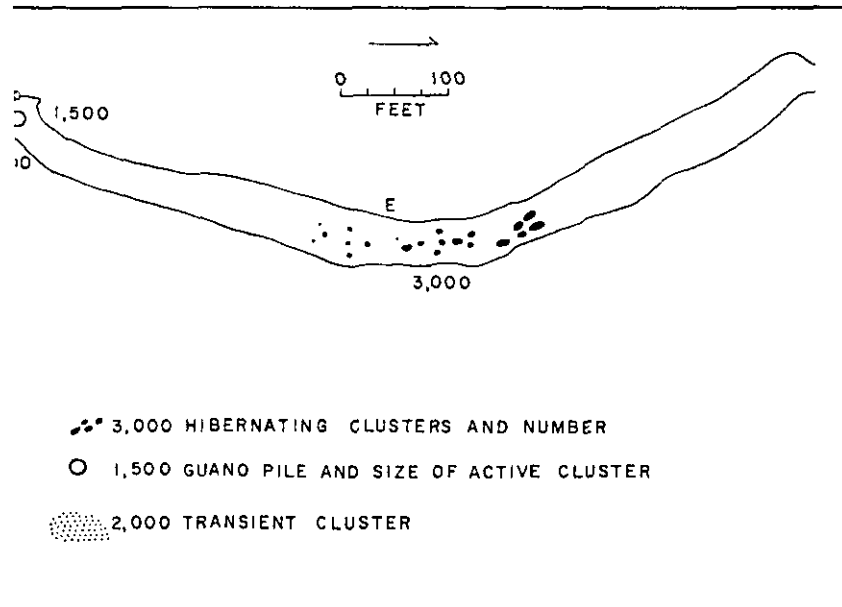


FIGURE 11. Hibernating, active, and transient clusters of *Myotis sodalis* in Dixon Edmonson County, Kentucky, on 9 October 1959.

were in the process of moving to other caves. Such a group was observed in any other cave.

On October 9, the hibernating clusters in Dixon Cave were at a maximum level of 3,000 in the usual areas indicated in figure 11. In Coach about 10,000 were hibernating in areas A, C, and D. This was an increase of about 7,500 in six days. These areas contain about 50,000 in winter, or one-half of the cave population, the other one-half being at lower levels marked E. At this rate all the *sodalis* should have been in Dixon Cave in about five more weeks. This would place the end of the hibernation period about mid-November.

Large numbers of bats were still at the guano piles on October 9, feed-

ing and carrying on mating activities. The transient area in Dixon Cave still contained about 2,000 bats. In Long's Cave on October 9 only a few *sodalis* were in hibernation and only a few were at the guano pile. These data show variation from cave to cave in regard to the return to hibernation. Bats return sooner to Dixon Cave and extra bats are present in the transient area. Bats return a little later to Coach Cave and still later to Long's Cave.

Dixon Cave may be an orientation point for *sodalis* returning to the area. This cave is on the banks of the Green River, whereas the other caves are several miles back from the river. The fact that bats banded in Dixon Cave during this returning period moved to Coach Cave later in

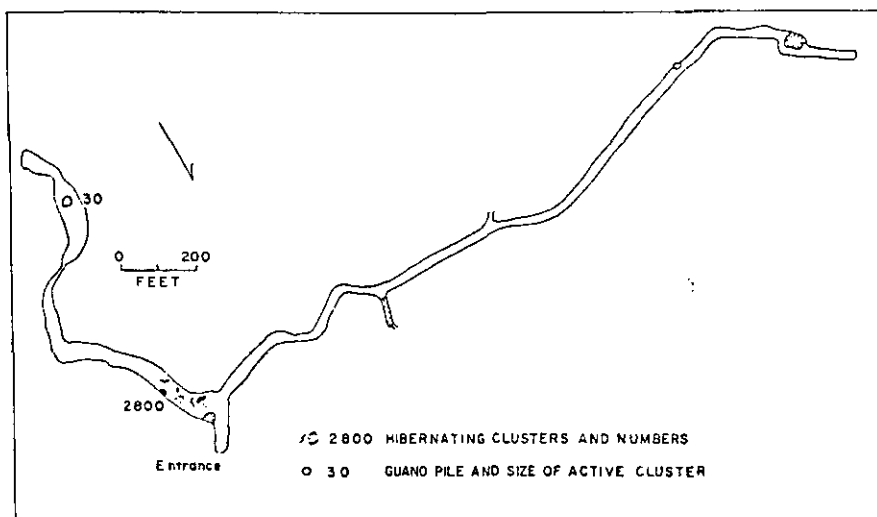


FIGURE 12. Hibernating and active clusters of *Myotis sodalis* in Long's Cave, Edmonson County, Kentucky, on 2 March 1958.

winter supports this contention. A male *sodalis* banded in Dixon Cave on September 1 was recovered two days later in Coach Cave. A male *sodalis* banded in Dixon Cave on October 9 was recovered in Coach Cave on December 18. Movement from Coach Cave to other caves was not noted for bats banded in the returning period. The importance of the river in navigation is indicated by these observations.

By late November the hibernating colonies are at a maximum in these caves. Bats were not observed feeding, a few were at guano piles, and no mating activities were noted during the last week of November.

The large hibernating colonies in these caves remain fairly constant during the winter. However, there are movements of clusters which occur at certain spots at definite times. There may be unnoticeable fluctuations of small numbers throughout the winter. In the case of the small popula-

in Blackball Mine, Illinois, a slight movement is very noticeable, as it seems that a large scale turnover of *sodalis* colonies does not occur winter, but small numbers may move in or out of a cave throughout winter.

The hibernating colonies start diminishing in early April. A few bats were observed flying out of Dixon Cave at night as early as April 1 (1958). Increased feeding must start as early as mid-March as indicated by increased guano deposition in Coach Cave (table 6). By April 18 (1958-1959) the colonies in Coach, Dixon, and Long's Caves were one-half to two-thirds of maximum. On May 3 (1959) in the upper levels of Coach Cave about 6,500 or 13 percent of the 50,000 were still in hibernation; in Dixon Cave about 500, or 17 percent of the mid-winter colony, were still hibernating. No *sodalis* are in hibernation during the first week of June. It is reasonable to place the end of hibernation at mid-May. There is a five- to six-week period during which the bats are in stages of leav-

TABLE 6. GUANO DEPOSITED AT THE GUANO PILE IN COACH CAVE, EDMONSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, DURING 1959

Period	Days	Grams/Day
1 January to 29 January	28	0.2
29 January to 7 March	37	0.2
7 March to 27 March	20	4.6
27 March to 3 May	37	7.4
3 May to 16 June	44	5.5
16 June to 10 July	24	13.4
10 July to 2 September	54	15.1
2 September to 3 October	31	45.6

the cave. This is about the same amount of time involved in the period of entrance in the fall.

The length of hibernation as determined from earliest entrance to latest departure is about 210 days. The total hibernation period as taken from earliest entrance to latest departure is about 252 days. The average length may be taken as the time when about one-half of the population entered in the fall and one-half has left in the spring. This would be about October 15 to April 20, or 187 days.

There are several aspects of behavior during hibernation that are of interest, such as: 1) the habit of returning to exact spots at certain times in winter; 2) clustering habits; 3) activity; and 4) the process of leaving hibernation.

As previously mentioned, *sodalis* hibernate in exact places in a cave. The zone of the cave in which they hibernate may be of considerable size, but exact spots are used in the zone. This is well seen in Colossal Cave, Edmonson County, Kentucky. The *sodalis* may be found along a one-half mile length of the main passage, but the clusters occur at precise spots,



high do not vary by more than two to three feet from year to year. Blackball Mine, Illinois, is a vast underground quarry, yet almost all the *sodalis* were clustered in one corner of one blind passageway. They were sometimes found in other spots nearby, but always these places were exact.

In Coach Cave, Kentucky, clusters formed in the same spots each winter. These places are indicated in figures 9 and 10. Exactness is seen not only in the spot occupied, but in the size of the cluster formed at any particular spot. Large clusters always form each year in exactly the same places. This is particularly striking in caves with large populations. The



FIGURE 13. A hibernating cluster of *Myotis sodalis* in Bat Cave, Carter County, Kentucky.

Large clusters marked A in Coach Cave (figure 9) always were present in early and mid-winter in the proportions indicated. These were on the sides of the passage on overhanging ledges. During January they begin to break up and reform on the ceiling at spots marked B and A in figure 10. This was observed during two successive winters. Thus not only are the spot and the size of the cluster the same, but the time of the winter when the clusters form is about the same from year to year. Characteristic clusters in November were seen in two caves. One such cluster was observed only during the second week in November at the same spot on two successive years in Blackball Mine. In Dixon Cave, Kentucky, a similar

ter was seen on two successive years during the last week of November at spot E on the side wall (figure 11). The number of bats in this cluster was between 500 and 1,000. The cave was visited during every month of the year, and this was the only time of the year when the cluster was seen.

Clusters do not necessarily contain the same individuals every year. If a cluster is banded the bats tend to disperse themselves immediately throughout many other clusters. The exact sizes of clusters at certain times must be determined by some physical factor at the spot in conjunction with the habit of forming dense clusters.

One of the most characteristic habits of the species is the type of cluster which is formed. A typical cluster of *M. sodalis*, as shown in figure 13, is directly on flat surfaces, such as ceilings or overhanging ledges on walls. A tight, compact cluster is formed by the bats pushing snugly against each other, and affixing their claws into an irregularity of the rock.

TABLE 7. *Myotis sodalis* AT GUANO PILE IN DIXON CAVE, EDMONSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, THROUGHOUT THE WINTER HIBERNATION PERIOD.  
(D—Daytime N—Night)

1958		1959	
April (N)	1,500	4 April (D)	300
April (D)	25	18 April (D)	150
April (N)	1,500	19 April (N)	150
November (D)	30	26 November (D)	40
		28 November (D)	20
		29 November (D)	20
February (D)	200	29 December (D)	60
April (N)	50		
April (N)	800		
April (D)	5		
		1 January (D)	6
		26 January (D)	200
		8 March (N)	15
		28 March (D)	6
		17 April (N)	500
		18 April (D)	500
		18 April (N)	500
		1 May (N)	300
		2 May (D)	300

A tight cluster is apparently formed by the bats placing their feet beside the feet of an adjoining bat. The feet have many hairs which could be very dry in nature. This grouping behavior may cause a radiating cluster to form. The bats at the edge would be nearly in a horizontal position, their feet affixed near the center of the cluster and their bodies partly supported by adjacent bats. The cluster is always one tier in depth, the bats not hanging on one another. The hibernating cluster grows in an irregular manner, forming no definite shape. The wings are always folded tightly against the body.

Information concerning activity in winter was obtained by observing activity at guano piles. All through the winter, small groups of *sodalis* were found clustered in an active condition over the guano piles in Dixon Cave, and Coach caves. The numbers seen during mid-hibernation (December-February) are variable, but do not exceed 200 in Dixon Cave (table 7). In Coach Cave as many as 500 may be present over guano piles all winter. These bats, which have evidently awakened from hiberna-

ion, are always very active. How long an individual may remain active and how often an individual may become active is not known. It appears that periods of activity are a normal part of hibernation.

Other species of bats have been noted to awaken periodically during the winter (Hahn, 1908; Folk, 1940; Rysgaard, 1941; and Twente, 1955). However, the details of this phenomenon have remained largely unknown. *Myotis sodalis* has the unique habit of going to these specific places over guano piles when they come out of the hibernation-torpority. Evidence is that one individual may awaken more than once during the winter. A male *sodalis* was caught at the guano pile in Dixon Cave on 28 February 1958, and was caught again at the pile on 1 April 1958.

Guano was collected with a plastic sheet over the pile in Coach Cave from 1 January 1959 to 3 October 1959. The guano was collected, dried, and weighed at the intervals indicated in table 6. During mid-winter, from January 1 to March 1, guano was deposited by the active bats at the pile at the rate of 0.2 grams per day. The increase in guano deposition in March is an indication of increased activity with the onset of the period of leaving hibernation. The guano deposited in mid-winter is full of chitin. This fecal discharge in winter is small, but its source must be explained. It comes either from food material eaten just before entering hibernation, or from food eaten during periods of activity in mid-winter. It seems unlikely that fecal material would remain in the intestinal tract for periods of time up to four months, even if the bat is in a torpid condition. Bats which were kept in artificial hibernation in a temperature control room at 5° C discharged some fecal material every day or two. This material was a thick, mucous material, since the bats had not eaten recently. This may not be a normal situation, but does attest to the activity of the digestive system, even when the body temperature is low.

The small amount of fecal discharge of *M. sodalis* in Coach Cave, Kentucky, in winter indicates the possibility that a few *sodalis* engage in limited feeding in mid-winter. Bats were observed flying during warm periods in January at Mammoth Cave National Park. The only species collected was the red bat, but other species could also be flying.

Groups of 50 to 100 bats of each sex were weighed throughout the year. Weight relationships of males and females throughout the year are shown in figure 14. In the fall, as *sodalis* are returning to the hibernation area, during late August and September, their weight is at the lowest point of the year. At this time dissection reveals no stored fat in the animal. Weight, in the form of fat, is rapidly gained in September. Hibernation begins when the bat has reached a maximum weight. This is higher for females than males. Bats taken from hibernation on October 3 weigh much more than those taken in an active state at guano piles (figure 14). Weight is lost rather rapidly during the early part of hibernation. From October 3 to November 27 the rate was 0.16 grams every 10 days for both males and

des. During mid-winter weight loss is decidedly less. From November to January 1 the rate was only 0.03 grams per 10 days, about one-fifth rate during early winter. Weight loss during the latter part of winter faster than mid-winter, but less than early winter. From January 1 to 18 the rate of loss was 0.09 grams per 10 days for females and 0.08 for males.

These differences in weight loss throughout the winter are due to temperature changes and activity. The *sodalis* occupy the same area of the cave all through the winter. When they enter hibernation the temperature in the area is 9° to 10° C. The temperature drops gradually, but in late

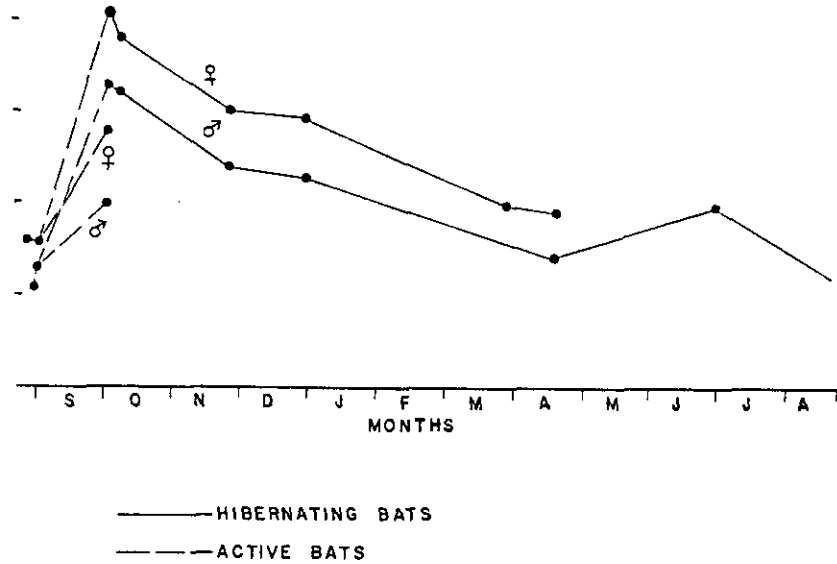


FIGURE 14. Weight changes of *Myotis sodalis* throughout the year. Each dot represents the average weight of 50 or more bats taken in a cave in Edmonson County, Ky.

in the fall it is still 6° to 7° C. By January 1 the temperature is down to a minimum of 4° to 5° C, which is characteristic of the hibernating area of *Myotis sodalis* in all the caves studied. Thus the temperature during the winter is higher than in mid-winter. This results in greater weight loss. Also, early winter is a time of entering hibernation. Bats which enter hibernation are disturbed by bats coming later. Weight loss in mid-winter is reduced to a low rate by the low temperature and reduced activity. In late winter activity increases, as noted by the moving of clusters. The temperature in the hibernating areas begins to rise during March, and with increased activity causes a rise in the rate of weight-loss.

Both sexes of *sodalis* apparently enter hibernation in the fall at the same rate. In the spring, however, the females leave at a faster rate than

he males. The sex ratios of hibernating clusters in Coach Cave from November through March are even. The sex ratio in late April becomes unbalanced with more males than females, and by May 3 nearly all hibernating bats are males. The sex ratio of active bats at guano piles in Dixon and Coach caves from November through March are even. In late April the sex ratio of active bats becomes unbalanced, with more females than males. This indicates that there is greater activity among females at this time and that they are leaving hibernation at a faster rate than males. Sex ratios for hibernating clusters and active *sodalis* are given for Coach Cave in table 8 and for active clusters in Dixon Cave in table 9.

#### DISCUSSION OF HIBERNATION

Hibernation begins in the fall for an individual *Myotis sodalis* after much fat has been accumulated. This is an individual activity, and consequently much variation occurs. This individual variation accounts for an extended period for entrance into hibernation, lasting about six weeks from mid-September to early November. Some fluctuation occurs from year to year in the time when the major population in a cave is in hibernation.

Limited activity in some bats, possibly all, occurs throughout the winter. Evidence supports the view that some bats actually enter and leave a cave in winter. Great variations are noted among small populations, which seem to have peaks in November and again in mid-winter. Such behavior is difficult to observe with large populations because only a few individuals are involved at any one time. Some *sodalis* possibly engage in feeding during the winter. When a bat awakens from hibernation it leaves the hibernating area, which is fairly close to entrances, and goes to a deeper, warmer part of the cave where there are guano piles. The zone of hibernation is

TABLE 8. SEX RATIOS OF *Myotis sodalis* IN COACH CAVE, EDMONSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, FROM HIBERNATING CLUSTERS AND GUANO PILE CLUSTERS THROUGHOUT THE WINTER

Date	Hibernating		Guano pile active	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1957				
3 February	.55	.45	Not taken	
20 April	.69	.31	Not taken	
30 November	.49	.51	Not taken	
1 March	.50	.50	Not taken	
1958				
4 April	.40	.60	.24	.76
19 April	.64	.36	.36	.64
1959				
7 March	.39	.61	.41	.59
18 April	.63	.37	.07	.93

TABLE 9. SEX RATIOS OF *Myotis sodalis* AT GUANO PILE DURING WINTER IN DIXON CAVE, EDMONSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY

	Guano pile active		Date	Guano pile active	
	Male	Female		Male	Female
			1958		
November	.53	.47	29 November	.53	.47
			29 December	.60	.40
			1959		
February	.41	.59	26 January	.57	.43
April	.36	.64	18 April	.08	.92
November	.47	.53			

As the temperature in mid-winter goes down to 4° to 6° C. By mid-winter many bats are in need of feeding, and numbers of active bats increase greatly. A large population of 100,000 leaves hibernation gradually in mid-March to the first of May.

The females leave at a faster rate than the males. Either the females lose fat more rapidly and thus lose weight faster, or the departure of females is associated with reproduction. It has been shown that the sexes lose weight at the same rate. Hence this early departure of females must be associated with the onset of ovulation and pregnancy.

*Myotis sodalis*, upon entering hibernation, occupy the same spots year after year, even though the temperature is similar throughout much of the year in early fall. The bats have the habit of returning to the same place in the cave, which is the place where the temperature in mid-winter reaches the proper hibernating temperature of this species. The habit of returning to the same spot assures the bat of being in the proper temperature zone in winter. This is possible in these large limestone caves, because temperature changes are gradual and relatively constant from year to year. In caverns with many large entrances temperature changes may not be equal or similar from year to year and bats must find the proper temperature zone by trial and error (Twente, 1955).

#### SELECTION OF THE HIBERNATION SITE

The habit of hibernation in bats has arisen in response to the need of surviving through several months when little food is available. Fat reserves are accumulated in a short period in the fall. The bats spend winter in a state of torpidity in which the temperature of the body approaches that of the environment. The fat reserve is expended during this time. The temperature of hibernation must be low enough that metabolism does not proceed at too fast a rate, but not so low that the bat will die. The success of hibernation depends upon metabolic rates and the efficient speed of the using of the fat reserve. Rates of metabolism vary

from species to species according to many factors, such as size, sex, temperature, age, and activity. Metabolic rates have been studied carefully in only a few mammals—man and laboratory animals such as rats, mice, and rabbits. In a study of metabolic rates of *M. lucifugus*, Hoek (1951) found that oxygen consumption varies nearly directly with body temperature. This means that the warmer the temperature of the hibernating habitat, the higher will be the metabolic rate of a bat. No studies have been done on the metabolic rates of different species and the correlation with the different habitats selected by different species.

The present study analyzes the habitat selection of *Myotis sodalis* and other species found in the same caves. Each species has definite environmental requirements for hibernation. This was clearly seen by Twente (1955) in a study of bats in several caves in Kansas. He concluded that the bats he studied found their proper cave habitat by a trial and error method. His studies were made in caverns where temperature fluctuated greatly, and where the bats would have to rely on a trial and error method to find the proper habitat.

Factors which must be taken into account when analyzing the hibernating habitat of a bat include: size of cave entrances; size and nature of rooms and passageways; temperature; moisture; nature of ceilings and walls; air movements; clustering characteristics; previous occupancy; and other species. A combination of these factors and possibly others are involved in the proper habitat for hibernation of a species. This proper combination must permit a species to maintain a minimum metabolic rate during the winter.

#### HABITAT SELECTION OF *Myotis sodalis*

*Myotis sodalis* accumulates in large numbers in a few caves to hibernate. These caves are the same ones from year to year. This species was found in the same seven caves and no others in Edmonson County, Kentucky, during five consecutive winters. This species is precise in choosing the cave for hibernation. This varies from the case of *Myotis velifer*, which seems not to return necessarily to the same caves each winter in Kansas (Twente, 1955). *Myotis sodalis* is typically found in large caves. The cave area of Edmonson County, Kentucky, contains some of the world's largest caves. The sizes of these caves can be roughly divided into three gradations: 1) very large, with many miles of passageways (Mammoth, Salt's, and Crystal caves); 2) medium-sized, with large passageways, but not extending for great distances (Dixon, Colossal, Coach, James, Long's, Bat, and Wilson caves); and 3) small caves with low, narrow passageways, many hundreds of which are found in Edmonson County. The seven caves that contain colonies of *sodalis* are included in two, the medium-sized caves. The very large caves are apparently too dry for this species. The small caves are not suitable for this species. It is only the medium-sized caves, which have

large passageways, but still are very moist, which *M. sodalis* uses for roosting and summer activities.

The relative humidity of the caves inhabited by *M. sodalis* is very high. In most passageways it is 85 percent or more throughout the year. Where water is abundant, such as in dripping pits, the humidity is near 100 percent.

The only case where differences in humidity may be important is *M. lucifugus*, which commonly hibernates in places where water is abundant and the humidity is near the saturation point.

Temperature is the most important factor involved in the selection of a hibernation site. The large limestone caverns of the mid-west have diverse temperature characteristics. Any particular cave is divided into zones of temperature. One is a certain area close to the entrances where the temperature fluctuates considerably throughout the year but does not fluctuate daily. The second zone, farther within, is the deep cave environment where temperature remains nearly constant throughout the year. This is the first zone which is utilized by bats for hibernation, with the exception of *Pipistrellus subflavus*, which hibernates in the deep parts of a

As was pointed out in the discussion of habits of hibernation, *M. sodalis* goes directly to specific spots upon entering hibernation. These spots are common and occur in the area of the cave where the temperature reaches a minimum of 4° to 6° C in mid-winter. These minimum temperatures were found in all areas where *sodalis* hibernates. However, when the *sodalis* enters hibernation in the fall the temperature in the areas close to entrances is usually above 10° C. The bats go directly to the area which will reach 4° to 6° C in mid-winter. This relationship is illustrated in figure 15. The temperature fluctuation of this area close to entrances is that of gradual change, cooling in winter and warming in summer. This means that the temperature at any particular spot in the cave at any time of the year will be about the same from one year to the next.

Since *sodalis* must select the spot to hibernate not on the basis of temperature at the time of entrance, but with the anticipation of the temperature in mid-winter, two or three months later. This is accomplished by merely returning to the same spots each year, and by forming dense clusters at these spots. The method by which the bats are able to find the same spots each year has not been determined. It is possible that they know the configuration of the cave through previous echo-location in the cave. Scent may also be important in orientation in caves. Once a cluster has begun to form, other bats would be attracted to them by sounds of the bats at the cluster. Since the temperature change is the same each year in these caves, the habit of going to the same spots each year makes it possible for the bats to get into the proper temperature zone before that ideal minimum temperature is reached. This is important in conserving energy, since otherwise they would have to use a trial and error method.



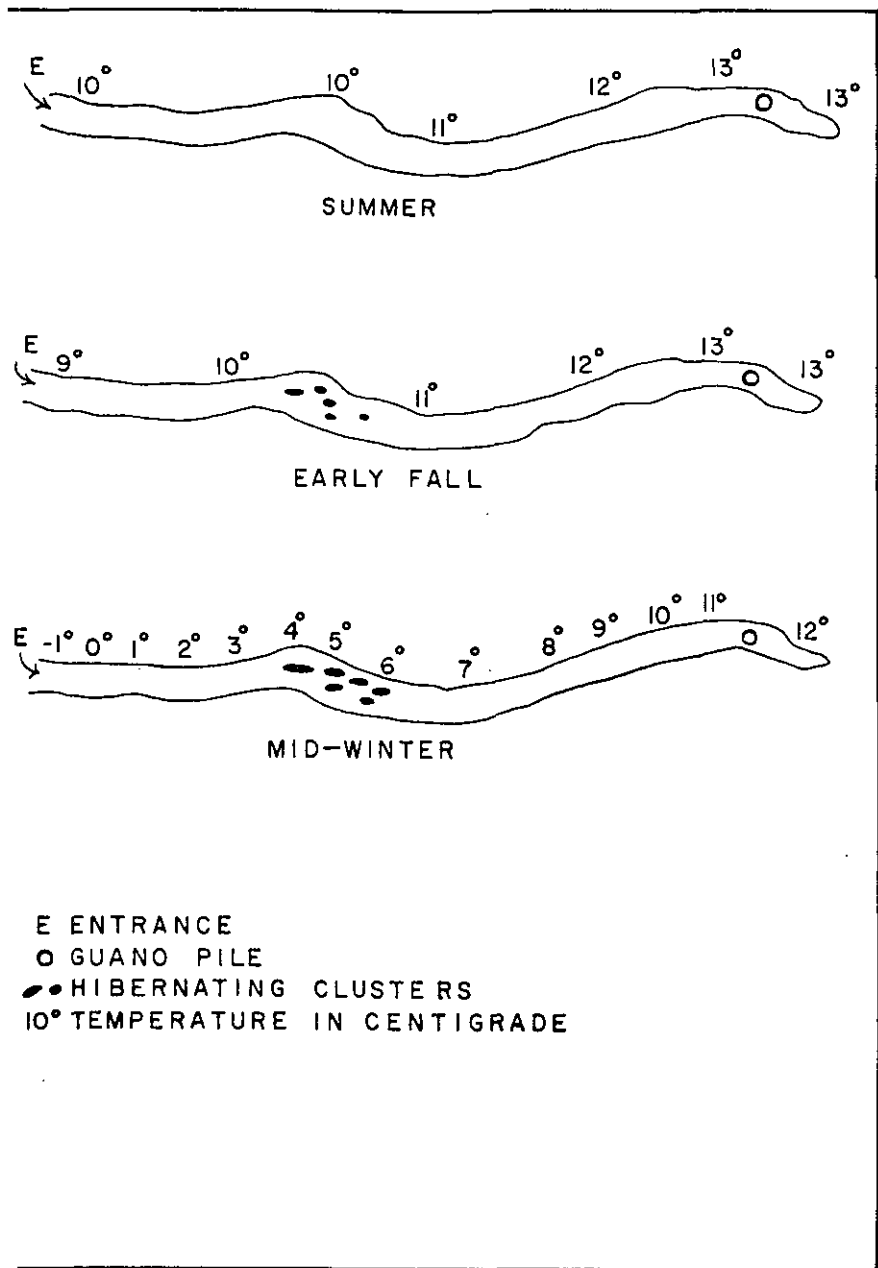


FIGURE 15. A diagrammatic representation of temperature changes and position of hibernating clusters of *Myotis sodalis* in a cave.

*Myotis sodalis* cluster on the flat surfaces of ceilings or overhanging eaves. The ceiling need be only slightly rough for the bats to hang on by their claws. In some cases, however, the ceiling may be too smooth. In such cases, any available rough surface in the immediate vicinity may be used. In Long's Cave, Edmonson County, Kentucky, the ceiling is too smooth for the bats to hold by the claws. The *sodalis* here hang on rough surfaces along ceiling cracks.

One of the most interesting features of the behavior of bats is the clustering habit. An important problem is that of evaluating the adaptive value of the specific clustering habit. Many species of *Myotis* form dense clusters in the hibernating season. Twente (1955) studied the possible value of clustering of *Myotis velifer* in caves in Kansas. His studies were made in caves where temperatures varied considerably. He postulated that the cluster protects bats from the fluctuating periods of warmer temperatures. He assumed that the bats at the edges of the clusters had been in hibernation less time than bats in the center of clusters. He also assumed that a bat which had been in hibernation longer was less irritable, and therefore more difficult to awaken. He found that the body temperature of bats in the centers of clusters was slightly lower than those on the edges of clusters. His conclusion as to the function of the hibernating cluster is to prevent the bats from warming temperatures of circulating air.

The situation of *Myotis sodalis* is considerably different. The caves in which *sodalis* hibernates do not exhibit much temperature fluctuation. The hibernating cluster of *sodalis* is very tight and compact (figure 13). The clusters do not necessarily form as Twente described for *M. velifer*. There is no guarantee that bats in the centers of clusters have been there longer than those at the edges. It was observed that *sodalis* can enter the cluster by taking in between other bats. Also clusters may form rapidly, so that an entire cluster may have been in hibernation about the same time. This is substantiated by banding information. When bats are banded in a cave and released, it is noted that within an hour banded individuals are found in hibernating clusters, deep inside and not necessarily on the edges. Rectal temperatures of *sodalis* were taken with a thermistor instrument accurate to the nearest 0.5° C, as was the micro-environmental temperature. The body temperature is 1° warmer than the cave-wall temperature. This was also found by Twente (1955). The body temperatures of *sodalis* are generally the same as the temperature of the wall, not the temperature of the air. This is true of *sodalis* from the edges of clusters as well as from the centers of clusters. Studies of body temperatures were not made of clusters of more than 200 individuals. In a measurement of 30 individuals hanging against a wall of 4° C, the following temperatures were recorded: 18 individuals at 4°; seven at 4.5°; four at 5°; and one at 6° C.

The difference of these results from those of Twente for *M. velifer* may be due to the fact that in caves where *sodalis* hibernate there are no

## HABITAT SELECTION OF OTHER SPECIES

*Eptesicus fuscus* is fairly common in the same caves as *sodalis*. This species typically hibernates in colder areas, from  $-2^{\circ}$  to  $5^{\circ}$  C. This has also been noted by Hitchcock (1949) and Rysgaard (1941). *Eptesicus* normally hangs on sidewalls or jams into cracks or holes. They do not form tight clusters and usually hang singly.

*Myotis lucifugus* has a much wider tolerance of temperature than *M. sodalis*. It has been seen hibernating in areas of  $-1^{\circ}$  up to  $13^{\circ}$  C. The timing of hibernation seems to be controlled more by moisture than temperature. It is typically found where the humidity is near 100 percent. This



FIGURE 16. Hibernating clusters of *Myotis lucifugus* in Bat Cave, Carter County, Kentucky.

Species is in dome-pits in the caves of central Kentucky, where water is typically abundant. In Blackball Mine, Illinois, *M. lucifugus* are concentrated over pools of water. This species forms semi-dense clusters. This species is different from *sodalis* in that the bats hang along cracks where claws can be hooked over flat projections. The clusters are typically formed in an overlapping fashion, with a belly-to-back relationship (figure

The bat which most closely approaches the ecological requirements of *sodalis* is *M. grisescens*. Its habits of aggregation are similar to those of *sodalis*. Little has been published concerning this species in winter hibernation. A large wintering colony is found in James Cave, Edmonson

County, Kentucky. This is only one-half mile from the large wintering population of *M. sodalis* in Coach Cave. This is the only wintering colony known of *griseescens* in Kentucky or Tennessee. This species also forms dense clusters like *sodalis*. When they become active, *griseescens* go to specific guano piles as do *sodalis*. The type of cluster is slightly different from *sodalis*. It is best described as an interwoven cluster, which may be several tiers in thickness, instead of one as in *sodalis*. The *griseescens* do not fold the arms tightly beside the body, but rather stick them out at a sharp angle, and this makes the cluster truly interwoven by the arms of the bats. Temperature relationships of the clusters have not been studied. However, observations indicate a much different situation than for *sodalis*. It appears that an entire cluster may warm up at the same rate, and apparently much faster than *sodalis*.

The temperature of the large rooms in James Cave where *M. griseescens* hibernate is 10° to 11° in mid-winter. The size of this *griseescens* colony numbers between 100,000 and 150,000 individuals. This population was not discovered until March 1959. During the first two winters of study, no *griseescens* were seen in Coach Cave. During the winter of 1958-1959 about 10,000 *griseescens* suddenly appeared in Coach Cave. The puzzle about where they came from was solved when the large colony in James Cave was discovered later the same winter. The next winter, 1959-1960, the number in Coach Cave increased to about 50,000. Obviously the gray bats are rapidly taking over Coach Cave as a hibernating site. The individuals and clusters have for the most part remained separate from the *sodalis* clusters in Coach Cave. Clusters of *griseescens* are in a zone of temperature from 7° to 10° C. However, there is some overlap of the hibernating areas of *M. griseescens* and *M. sodalis* in Coach Cave. In this overlap zone, the *griseescens* tend to hang directly on clusters of *sodalis*. This could be a disturbing influence on the *sodalis*. It may be that the 4° to 6° C temperature where *sodalis* hibernates is too cold for *griseescens* and active competition for hibernating space may not occur.

The other species commonly found in these caves is *Pipistrellus subflavus*. This is the smallest bat of the area and occupies the warmer, deeper parts of the cave where the temperature is 12° to 13° C. This preference for a hibernating site makes a large area available to this species in these large caves. This availability of space may explain why *Pipistrellus* does not form clusters.

#### SUMMER DISTRIBUTION AND ACTIVITY

One of the most perplexing problems in the life history of *M. sodalis* is its distribution and habits in summer. Miller and Allen (1928) suggested that the large winter colonies are composed of individuals from widespread summer groups. Some references to the species in summer have been pub-

d. Black (1936) reported taking one specimen in Denney Cave, Madison County, Arkansas, on 11 June 1933 and another on 7 July 1934, and one Bat Cave, Benton County, Arkansas, on 6 July 1934. Mohr (1933) reported finding a cluster of 69 male *sodalis* in Dixon Cave, Edmonson County, Kentucky, on 28 June 1932. Summer records for the species in Indiana have been summarized by Mumford and Cope (1958). These records include a few specimens which have been shot while feeding at a number of localities in Indiana. They report that a small group of adults with young were seen under a bridge at Turkey Run State Park, Parke County. Other summer records for Indiana include two caves: Ray's cave, Greene County; and Wyandotte Cave, Crawford County.

The localities of summer specimens that have been examined are plotted on figure 2. In general, this distribution agrees closely with the winter distribution. Winter areas which have no summer records are northern Indiana, eastern Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, and New England. The summer records from northern Illinois, northern Indiana, and southern Michigan are slightly north of the winter range. It seems that the summer range coincides fairly closely with winter range.

Most of the summer specimens are males. Females have been taken in central Kentucky, and in Indiana, from Tippecanoe, Parke, Washington, Kosciusko, Knox, Ripley, and La Grange counties. This area includes a large portion of Indiana.

Since most summer specimens are from caves, field work was concentrated in cave areas in the mid-west in an attempt to learn of the habits of *sodalis* in the summer months. During June, July, and August, in 1957, 1958, and 1959, fifty-two caves were investigated of which 34 are in Kentucky, eight in Tennessee, four in Illinois, three in Missouri, and two in Indiana. These include 12 of the 19 caves in which this species was studied in winter. Most of the detailed study was done in central Kentucky. *Myotis sodalis* were found in seven caves as follows: INDIANA: Ray's Cave, Greene County; MISSOURI: Bat Cave, Shannon County; KENTUCKY: Bat Cave, Carter County; Coach Cave, Edmonson County; Long's Cave, Edmonson County; Dixon Cave, Edmonson County; and Colossal Cave, Edmonson County. These seven caves are ones which also have hibernating colonies in winter. *Myotis sodalis* were not found in any cave in summer which did not contain a winter colony. Five caves that have winter colonies but do not contain summer colonies as follows: ILLINOIS: Blackball Mine, La Grange County; KENTUCKY: Wilson Cave, Edmonson County; James Cave, Edmonson County; and Bat Cave, Edmonson County.

Two adult females were found in Ray's Cave, Greene County, Indiana, on 3 July 1959. This cave apparently does not contain a regular summer colony, but only an occasional *sodalis* enters the cave in summer. Mumford and Cope (1958) collected two immature males from this cave on 5 August

57. A colony of about 300 male *sodalis* were seen over a guano pile in Bat Cave, Shannon County, Missouri, on May 30, 1959. This cave contains one of the large winter colonies of about 100,000 individuals. On 11 August 1958, three male *sodalis* were collected in Bat Cave, Carter County, Kentucky. There appears to be no major summer colony in this cave, which does contain one of the larger winter colonies.

Concentrated field work was done in the caves of Edmonson County, Kentucky, during the summers of 1957, 1958, and 1959. *Myotis sodalis* were found quite abundantly in Coach, Long's, Dixon, and Colossal caves, previously mentioned. They were nearly always found clustered over guano piles in these caves. There is no guano pile in Colossal Cave, but during the summer the *sodalis* cluster in an active condition deep in the cave, at the kind of location where guano piles are found in other caves. The bats in summer are in the deeper and warmer parts of the cave, whereas the hibernating clusters are close to entrances, where it is much colder, even in the summer. The species and numbers of bats found at these piles are quite variable throughout the summer. Composition of these summer clusters is given for Dixon Cave in table 10.

The principal bats at the piles in summer are male *M. sodalis*. In five years of observation during the summer of 1958 in Dixon Cave, 900 bats were estimated to be at the pile. Of these, 218 were caught. Male *M. sodalis* comprised 87 percent of those caught; female *M. sodalis*, 4 percent; male *M. lucifugus*, 7 percent; female *M. lucifugus*, 2 percent; and male *M. grisescens*, 4 percent. In 1959 observations were made in Dixon Cave on different days in June, July, and August. The total number of bats estimated in these visits was 2,192. Of these, 1,212 were caught and the composition was as follows: male *M. sodalis*, 81.9 percent; female *M. sodalis*, 1 percent; male *M. lucifugus*, 1 percent; female *M. lucifugus*, 0.1 percent; male *M. grisescens*, 9 percent; and female *M. grisescens*, 0.1 percent. This cave does not have a permanent colony of bats in summer. They apparently come by groups to the cave and stay for one or two days. A typical observation is as follows. On June 26 (1959) no bats were in the cave during the day. During the night bats started entering the cave about 9:00 PM and continued to enter for several hours. In the morning, a cluster of about 200 bats was over the guano pile. These were active at 8:00 AM, but by 10:00 AM the cluster had become inactive. The individuals were torpid, with the body temperature lowered close to the environment (4° C). This torpidity persisted for several hours, but by late afternoon the bats were again active. It was expected that these bats would then leave the cave at night, but only a few did leave. The remaining stayed on the pile and did not leave the cave during the night. This cycle of activity was repeated on the following day, except that the next night the entire cluster left the cave at dark. The following night another group came to the cave. This was a different group, because 91 were caught and

1 in the first group on June 28, and none was recovered when 200 were taken from the second group on June 30. During the 18 visits to Dixon Cave during the summer of 1959, 993 males and 91 females were banded. Of these, only three were taken again in subsequent visits in the same summer. These data show that groups of bats, which are mostly male *M. sodalis*, visit certain caves for short periods of time during the summer and move on and are replaced by other groups.

TABLE 10. COMPOSITION OF ACTIVE CLUSTERS OF BATS IN DIXON CAVE, EDMONSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, DURING JUNE, JULY, AND AUGUST

	No. estimated at guano pile	Number caught	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>		<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>		<i>Myotis grisescens</i>	
			Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
June	50	0						
July	120	60	51	3	6	0	0	0
July	200	0						
July	300	158	136	4	8	1	9	0
July	230	0						
	900	218	187	7	14	1	9	0
August	130	0						
August	150	0						
August	114	114	41	0	1	0	72	0
August	26	26	12	0	0	0	14	0
August	0	0						
August	8	0						
August	15	15	12	0	0	0	3	0
August	0	0						
August	0	0						
August	200	0						
August	130	91	84	0	1	0	4	1
August	250	200	192	3	0	0	5	0
August	300	208	197	6	0	0	5	0
August	130	53	49	1	2	1	0	0
August	270	221	206	10	0	0	3	0
August	9	9	2	0	7	0	0	0
August	160	124	116	6	2	0	0	0
August	300	151	80	65	3	0	3	0
	2,192	1,212	993	91	16	1	109	1

These data can be used to determine the approximate number of *M. sodalis* which visited this one cave during the summer. The total number of bats estimated at the guano pile in 18 visits was 2,192. Of these, 82 percent, or 1,797, would be male *sodalis* and 8 percent, or 175, female *sodalis*. This is an average of 100 males per day and 10 females per day which visited Dixon Cave. For an entire summer from May 15 to September 15, 1959, the total number would be 12,400 male and 1,240 female *M. sodalis* that entered the cave. Four caves in the area are known to have the same situation as Dixon Cave.

From this it is apparent that male *M. sodalis* are abundant in central Kentucky in summer. The numbers of males estimated to be entering the caves are great enough to explain the presence of nearly all those known to hibernate in the area in winter. Actual band recoveries are indicative of this, as is pointed out below.

#### MOVEMENTS AND SEASONAL BEHAVIOR

Many thousands of bats have been banded in North America since 1932. With all this banding activity it seems that much should be known about seasonal and non-seasonal movements of bats, and movement ranges could be well worked out. Such is not the case. Little has been reported about specific movements and recoveries of banded bats. Most reports are of isolated recoveries, largely associated with homing experiments, which have not revealed much of natural movement patterns. Not enough recoveries of any one species have been made to define adequately movement ranges between seasons, or within one season. The best results with any one species is the work done with movements of *Myotis lucifugus* in the northeast United States by Griffin (1940, 1945). There are no published records of movements of banded *M. sodalis* or recoveries from one season to another.

*Myotis sodalis* were banded in Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky, during winter and summer months, in an attempt to make recoveries of banded individuals, and to understand seasonal and non-seasonal movements. Banding was done in five areas: northern Illinois, southern Illinois, south-central Indiana, eastern Kentucky, and central Kentucky. In the five winters between late 1956 and early 1961, the following *sodalis* were banded in caves and mine tunnels of the above areas respectively: 236 males and 174 females banded in Blackball Mine, La Salle County, Illinois; two males banded in Cave Spring Cave, Hardin County, Illinois; 186 males and 190 females banded in Ray's Cave, Greene County, and Wyandotte Cave, Crawford County, Indiana; 663 males and 618 females from Bat Cave, Carter County, Kentucky; 3,743 males and 4,052 females from Dixon, Colossal, Coach, Long's, and Bat caves, Edmonson County, Kentucky. This is a total of 4,830 males and 5,034 females banded during hibernation.

Additional *sodalis* banded by other workers in winter during recent years include several thousand by James B. Cope and Russell Mumford (in litt.) in south-central Indiana; about 20,000 in Missouri by Richard Myers (in litt.); 392 in northern Alabama by Wayne H. Davis (in litt.); and 47 in West Virginia by Davis.

#### WINTER TO SUMMER RECOVERIES

None of the 1,693 *M. sodalis* banded in winter in northern Illinois, southern Illinois, and eastern Kentucky was recovered in summer. Of the 376



l in south-central Indiana only one was recovered in summer. This female banded in Ray's Cave, Greene County, on 18 December 1958, recovered in the same cave on 29 July 1959. Of the 7,795 *sodalis* l in central Kentucky in winter, 16 were recovered in summer. This total recovery rate of only 0.21 percent. Eleven of these 16 were recd in the same cave in summer as the one where they were banded in . Five of these were from a group of 183 males banded in Colossal Edmonson County, Kentucky, in January 1959, and recovered in al Cave in July 1959. This is a recovery rate of 2.73 percent for this

Four males from a group of 359 banded in Long's Cave, Edmonson County, Kentucky, in January 1959 were recovered in Long's Cave in June . One female from 475 banded in Long's Cave in January 1959 was recd in Long's Cave on 2 September 1959.

the 4,399 males banded in Coach Cave, Edmonson County, Kentucky, in winter, four were seen in summer. One is a male banded in April and recovered in the same cave in July 1958. The other three were recd some distance from Coach Cave. One, which was banded in Cave in March 1959, was recovered in a farm building near Shepperville, Bullitt County, Kentucky, in October 1960, some 60 miles NNW of the point of banding. Another male banded in February 1957 was recd in a building in Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana, on 26 September 1958, some 180 miles north of Coach Cave. The third male was l in Coach Cave in March 1959 and recovered in Winchester, Randolph County, Indiana, in July 1960, some 225 miles NNW of the winter

the 2,336 females banded in Coach Cave in winter, two were recd in summer. One was banded on 20 April 1957, during hibernation, recovered in a building in Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana, on 27 March 1960, some 180 miles north. The other female was banded on 7 March 1959 and recovered near Urbana, Champaign County, Ohio, on 2 May 1960, some 240 miles NE.

#### SUMMER TO WINTER RECOVERIES

For *M. sodalis* were banded in summer, and most of them were males.

the summer months of June, July, and August of 1957, 1958, and 1959 in south-central Indiana, eastern and central Kentucky, 1,279 male and 1,279 female *sodalis* were banded. All but seven of these were banded in Colossal, and Coach caves, Edmonson County, Kentucky.

the summer of 1958, eighteen female and 261 male *sodalis* were banded in Edmonson County, Kentucky. Seven of the males were recovered in caves of this same county. This is a recovery rate of 2.51 percent. Two of these were banded in Dixon Cave in summer and recovered in the same cave in winter. Three were banded in Dixon Cave in summer and recovered in Coach Cave in winter, five miles away. One was banded

short distances of a few miles between caves in Edmonson County, Kentucky. Likewise, two movements are of a few miles between caves in Greene and Monroe counties, in Indiana. The remaining 13 records involve longer distances between colonies in central Kentucky, southern Indiana, northern Illinois, and eastern Kentucky.

These movements between winter colonies involve essentially the same area as that of the seasonal movements previously described. There may be considerable movement from one winter to the next. The longest distance of a bat that moved 320 miles from northern Illinois to central Kentucky, from one winter to the next. Fifteen of the 20 records are for females. This indicates that females tend to change their cave of hibernation more than males. This difference is significant at the .01 level. A greater number of records will be necessary to say with certainty that female *sodalis* change their hibernating site more often than males.

A large number of *M. sodalis* have been banded in recent years in the Ozark area of Missouri by Richard Myers. We have obtained no records of *M. sodalis* movement between the Ozark area and the area involved in the previously described movements in Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky.

#### DISCUSSION OF MOVEMENT

Male *Myotis sodalis* are abundant in summer in the same areas where they are abundant in winter. The males travel around in small groups and can be found over guano piles in the large caves in which they hibernate in winter. The exact pattern of movement is not well understood. Any one group apparently visits a cave only once or twice during the entire summer. These groups probably include almost all the same individuals that wintered in the cave. They must be moving to other places, but no records are available to indicate where these other places are.

The movement area in summer may be rather large. The records for movement from the winter caves in Edmonson County, Kentucky, to a summer area in southern and central Indiana, and central Ohio, are noted above. Two juveniles that were banded in central Indiana in summer traveled to central Kentucky to hibernate, one being recovered during the first winter of its life. This individual had found its way to a hibernating cave of its own species 170 miles from where it was born. When this bat was recovered it was in the same cluster with another *sodalis* which had been banded three years previously in a cave in Indiana, 65 miles from where the juvenile was banded. It appears that the juvenile was traveling with adult bats from Indiana.

What do bats orient on in traveling the 170 to 320 miles as *M. sodalis* have been found to do? It is postulated here that the major rivers are navigation routes for *sodalis*. The caves used by this species are all fairly close to rivers. One of these, Dixon Cave, in central Kentucky on the very banks

Green River, apparently serves as an orientation point for bats coming to the area in the fall and for large groups moving in the spring. In late fall several thousand *M. sodalis* may enter this cave at night and then leave in a few hours. In fall, this cave contains more bats earlier than other caves of the area. These bats then move to other hibernating sites situated several miles back from the river.

Probably definite movement areas may exist for certain populations of *M. sodalis*. Movement records are numerous between Indiana, Illinois, and

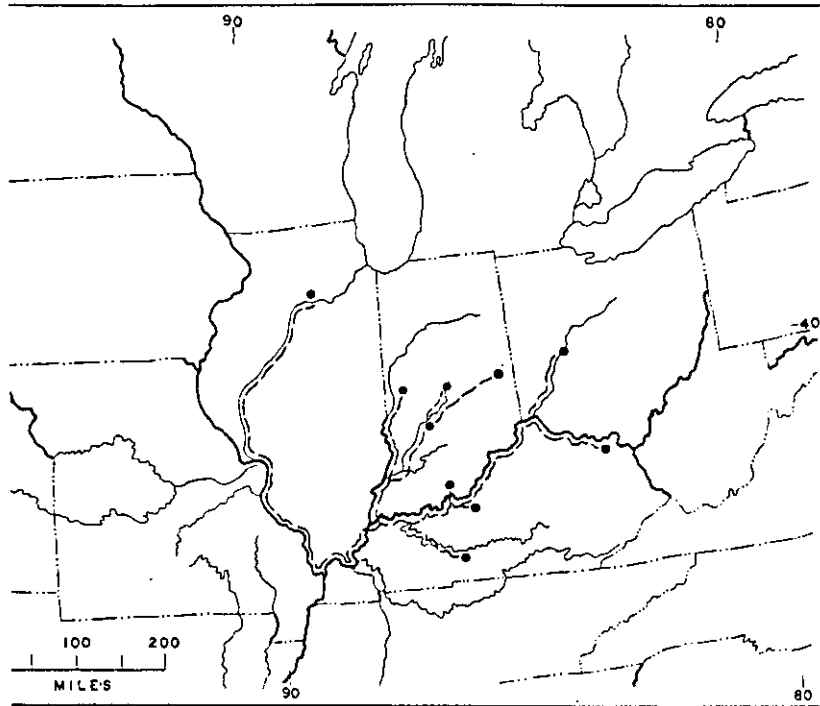


FIGURE 19. Possible routes of travel by riverways involved in the movements of *M. sodalis* shown in figures 17 and 18.

Ohio, but no records exist between Kentucky and Missouri. The bats become familiar with certain areas by traveling with other bats. Once riverways are learned, the bats can travel easily over some large distances.

Possible routes used by *M. sodalis* in the movements described are indicated in figure 19.

This has bearing on so-called "homing" abilities of bats. It has been demonstrated by several workers, as summarized by Cockrum (1956), that *M. sodalis* may return from distances of over 200 miles when removed from their roosts. *Eptesicus fuscus* have returned from over 300 miles (Smith and

loodpaster, 1958). These experiments do not take into account the possible natural movement and familiar territory of the bats under observation. The ability of an animal to find its way back to its roost from within its own territory does not demonstrate a remarkable homing ability, but merely shows that the animal has the habit of returning to a particular area at a certain time of the year. The natural range of populations of bats must be discovered first, before homing experiments will reveal much about orientation in bats.

#### REPRODUCTION

Details of the reproductive cycles of those species of bats which spend the winter in hibernation have been studied carefully by several workers since about 1930. Reviews of literature are presented by Hartman, 1933; Wimsatt, 1942; Wimsatt and Kallen, 1957; and Wimsatt and Trapido, 1952. *Myotis sodalis* has been studied only by Guthrie (1933). Apparently the pattern of reproduction is similar for all those species which hibernate. This study adds nothing to the knowledge of reproductive cycles of these bats, but some significant observations were made concerning the time, place, and circumstances of mating in *M. sodalis*. An important problem still exists as to the location of the nursery colonies of females and their young, and thus as to the care and development of the young. Some information on these problems was obtained from the examination of museum specimens.

Bats that spend the winter in hibernation mate in the fall as they enter hibernation, and the sperm are stored in the uterus until spring, when the female ovulates upon leaving hibernation (Guthrie, 1933; Wimsatt, 1942, 1944). However, little is known of the circumstances of mating, since evidence for mating comes largely from the recovery of sperm in the female.

Actual observations of mating are few and have never involved large numbers of bats. Wimsatt (1945) describes in detail the mating of *M. lucifugus* and *M. subulatus* in caves throughout the winter. He saw only a few pairs and usually mating occurred only after the bats were aroused by the presence of the observers. *Myotis sodalis* were observed closely throughout the year. A fairly good idea of the circumstances of mating was obtained. Mating occurs only during a definite period in the fall, deep in the hibernating caves near the guano piles, late at night. Observations were made at Dixon Cave, Edmonson County, Kentucky, during the fall of 1959. On September 1, no mating activity was observed at the guano pile at which 30 to 400 bats were roosted. Hibernation had not yet begun. On October 1, hibernation had begun for some individuals. There were, however, about 500 *M. sodalis* at the guano pile both day and night. No mating activity is observed during the day. At night activity increased with some flying out to feed, some returning after feeding, and mating activity was taking place. The number of bats at the pile increased as the night progressed.

y pairs were seen mating and males were observed scurrying around for mates.

male actively seeks out a female by crawling along the ceiling of the. He cautiously approaches her from behind, crawls over her, then; the female just in back of her head with his teeth, and holds her se- y. The female immediately tries to escape, and sometimes manages to way. The male gets his hind quarters underneath the interfemoral brane, and at the same time bends his tail and membrane back onto the g, and out of the way. The penis is inserted by strong pushing of the quarters. The female is constantly trying to escape, but the male tains a firm hold with the teeth, and spreads his wings around the fe- to restrain her. Once the penis is introduced, the female seems to quiet and the male loosens his grip, but brings the forearms forward and them against the back of the head of the female, and actually bends eck down a little. The mating lasts for several minutes, but actual g means little, since the bats were considerably disturbed by the pres- of the observers.

is mating behavior is essentially the same as that described for *Myotis gus* by Wimsatt (1945). On October 9, the hibernating colonies were ncreasing, and there were still many active bats at the guano pile en- in mating activities. The next date of observation was November 27. ating was observed then, or at any other time throughout the winter, though many bats would be at the guano piles in an active condition. limited mating was observed in late April as the bats were leaving ation. This involved only a few pairs, not the mass mating as in the *Myotis sodalis* thus seems to have a more definite period of mating does *M. lucifugus*. Whereas *lucifugus* may mate throughout the ; *sodalis* mates only in the fall and again to a lesser degree in spring. i important problem is whether or not a cave population in winter is i breeding population. In these mating groups in Dixon Cave, 16 d bats were recovered. All of these were ones which had been banded on Cave, either in winter or summer. However, bats banded in Dixon in September, before the mating season, were recovered in Coach Cave, miles away in winter. One was recovered the day after banding. g the fall mating season in Dixon Cave, a large number of bats are ated in what can be called the transient area. It may be that these e bats which are moving on to other caves and keep themselves separ- om the colony of Dixon Cave. Some movement from one winter cave ther does take place as was pointed out before. It seems that the in- als in a hibernating colony are for the most part a breeding colony, th some interchange possible between colonies in certain areas. It is own where the young that are born to the females of any particular ay go to mate and hibernate. The movements of the only two juve- ver banded have already been discussed. Both these two juveniles

were banded from the same small cluster in Indiana, but were found hibernating in different caves in central Kentucky. It seems more realistic to think of a breeding population as those bats which are found within a natural populational movement area. One such area apparently involves Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, and southern Ohio. There seems to be little or no movement to other areas, where populations of *M. sodalis* occur.

The place and circumstances of the birth and rearing of the young of *M. sodalis* are unknown. Only one pregnant female has ever been seen or taken (REM, 1839). This bat was shot by Larry Calvert near Mongo, La Grange county, Indiana, on 18 June 1959. This female contained one embryo 39 millimeters in length. Juveniles have been collected a number of times. Juvenile records for Indiana are summarized by Mumford and Cope (1958). The youngest is a male collected 24 July 1952, under a bridge at Turkey Run State Park, Parke County, Indiana. This individual was 71 mm long and had its adult teeth. On July 27, 1957, a group of immature *M. sodalis* were caught at this same bridge (Mumford and Cope, 1958). One specimen collected was 87 mm long. The others were banded and their movements have been discussed previously. Mumford and Cope reported that three mature *sodalis* were shot while feeding near a wooded area in Steuben county, Indiana, 27 July 1957. Mumford collected two immature *sodalis* at Ray's Cave, Greene County, Indiana, on 5 August 1957. These were essentially adult-size, except that the wing epiphyses were still open.

Other juvenile specimens were found in the examination of specimens: one mummy from Greenway, Clay County, Arkansas, on 10 July 1898 (NHM); one taken at Grosse Isle, Wayne County, Michigan (USNM), with no data; three males taken in Penn's Cave, Centre County, Pennsylvania, on 2 November 1924 (CU); one male from Aitkin Cave, Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, on 17 November 1940 (CU); one female taken in Tile's Cave, Albany County, New York, on 2 March 1941 (MCZ); and one male taken in Nickwacket Cave, Crittenden, Rutland County, Vermont, 22 February 1935 (MCZ).

For a species as abundant as *M. sodalis* there are few records of breeding males and juveniles. It seems that the young are born in late June and are on the wing by mid-July. In the southern parts of the range, the wing epiphyses are closed by the beginning of hibernation in the fall. In the northern portion of the range, from Pennsylvania to Vermont, the epiphyses may still be open when the bats enter hibernation. They thus can be distinguished throughout the winter as young of the year.

#### SUMMARY

1. *Myotis sodalis* is restricted in winter to the major cavernous limestone areas of the mid-west and eastern United States. Localities occur in groups of areas where there are many large caves in a small area.

Most localities are close to major rivers. These rivers apparently are important in navigation and may be avenues of dispersal. The eastern divide between the Atlantic Coastal drainage and the Mississippi drainage has as somewhat of a barrier to dispersal.

The summer range is less well known, but appears to be about the same as the winter range, except for a slight extension to the north beyond the above areas.

Characters of the skin and skull show no indication of race formation within the species. Measurements vary little over the entire range of *M. s.*

The winter distribution of cave populations is decidedly one that is aggregated. Four caves are known in Kentucky and Missouri which have colonies of about 100,000 individuals. Other caves have only 1,000 or less. One such large population was destroyed by flooding in a mine in central Kentucky. This species is extremely specialized in regard to the habit of aggregation.

The period of hibernation is about 190 days on the average. *Myotis* form characteristic dense clusters on ceilings in the same spots each year. These spots are in the zone of the cave where the temperature is 4° to 6° C in mid-winter. Considerable activity occurs throughout the winter, as well as some limited feeding.

The cluster takes advantage of a rather narrow zone of temperature in the cave and protects the bats from excessive disturbance during hibernation.

Other species form different types of clusters and are adapted to different temperature zones. This has allowed several species to occupy a cave together.

Male *M. sodalis* wander around in small groups during the summer. They may be found hanging over guano piles in the same caves in which they hibernated. These guano piles are in the deeper, warmer parts of the cave. The *sodalis* fly out to feed at night from these roosting places. Other species, such as *Myotis lucifugus* and *Pipistrellus subflavus*, may be found in the same caves in summer, but they are nearly always in a torpid condition. They do not exhibit daily activity, but remain in a cold, torpid condition for long periods of days. *Myotis sodalis* has been able to adapt to cold caves, live in them during the summer, and still carry on normal activity. This is a basic difference between a true cave-inhabiting bat in temperate regions and one that uses caves only for hibernation. *Myotis grisescens* and *M. austroriparius* are also true cave bats in this area.

The same individual *M. sodalis* may be present in the same area during the summer, or may move as much as 230 miles between seasons. Band recoveries indicate that certain movement areas exist for certain populations. One such populational range includes Kentucky, Indiana, and southern Ohio. No movement apparently takes place between

his area and the Ozark area of Missouri and Arkansas. The postulated routes of navigation are the major rivers.

11. A *sodalis* may hibernate in one cave one winter and in another the next or subsequent winters, but the tendency is to return to the same cave each winter. The area of movement between hibernating caves is the same as that involved in seasonal movement.

12. Females tend to change their cave of hibernation more than males as indicated from actual movement records.

13. The sex ratio of *M. sodalis* is equal in the winter colonies.

14. In comparing the habits of several species of *Myotis* found in eastern and mid-western United States, it can be seen that *M. sodalis*, *M. grisescens*, *I. velifer*, and *M. austroriparius* have similar habits in regard to cave adaptations and aggregation. *Myotis lucifugus*, *M. keenii*, and *M. subulatus* use caves only to hibernate in. If they enter caves in summer, they go to a torpid condition as in hibernation. *Myotis sodalis* and *M. lucifugus* resemble each other more closely in morphology, but *sodalis* may well be more closely related to *M. grisescens*, *M. velifer*, and *M. austroriparius*.

15. *Myotis sodalis* has apparently evolved through adaptations for utilization of the larger caves of Missouri and Kentucky. This species has become a true cave-adapted *Myotis*. The major cave areas of Kentucky and Missouri are centers of abundance at the present time.

16. The establishment of populational ranges restricts gene flow within the species. This apparently has not been in effect long enough to allow race differentiation to occur.

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