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Quarterly Report

to

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

April – June 2000

**DISTRIBUTION AND STATUS OF ENDANGERED
BATS IN TENNESSEE**

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and

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DISTRIBUTION AND STATUS OF ENDANGERED BATS IN TENNESSEE

April – June 2000

Michael J. Harvey and Eric R. Britzke

During the period covered in this report we began summer field surveys; work was started on 24 May 2000. Four nights were spent mist-netting in the Cades Cove area of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. During that period 43 bats representing six species were captured. Species captured were big brown bats, eastern red bats, hoary bats, little brown bats, northern long-eared bats, and eastern pipistrelles. No endangered Indiana bats were captured, although they are known (results from last summer) to be present in the area. It was hoped that we would capture Indiana bats to be fitted with radio-transmitters in an attempt to locate maternity roost sites. More concentrated mist-netting in the area will be conducted during July and August 2000.

During late June we mist-netted for six nights at three sites in the Tennessee portion of Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. The sites netted were relatively close to Tobaccoport Cave in Stewart County, an endangered gray bat summer colony site and a hibernaculum for both gray bats and Indiana bats. Seven gray bats (2 M; 5 F) were captured at two of the sites; no Indiana bats were captured. Gray bats were also detected at the third site using the Anabat acoustic identification system. We had hoped to locate summer records of Indiana bats in the area. In addition to gray bats, 131 additional bats were captured, including little brown bats, eastern red bats, northern long-eared bats, evening bats, eastern pipistrelles, and a single male Seminole bat. The Seminole bat had previously been captured in Tennessee at only a very few sites. The eastern red bat was the dominant species captured. Although not mist-netted, big brown bats and hoary bats were also detected at these sites using the Anabat system.

During early June, at the request of the National Park Service, we checked nearly 50 abandoned buildings at Elkmont in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. No bats were discovered, although some small guano accumulations were noted

During 3-5 May we attended an Anabat Workshop at Townsend, Tennessee. The workshop was taught by E. R. Britzke and was attended by ca. 20 individuals representing several federal and state agencies and other organizations. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce those attending to the Anabat acoustic identification system, which is gaining wide acceptance as a bat inventory tool.

During late April we attended a Caver's Workshop at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Numerous contacts were made with Tennessee cavers, which will be valuable in our future Tennessee bat survey research efforts. M. J. Harvey gave a presentation on "Bats of Tennessee."

In July and August we will concentrate our efforts on mist-netting in the vicinity of known Indiana bat hibernacula to determine if Indiana bat maternity roost sites occur in Tennessee. We will also inventory many of the gray bat summer caves, which were not visited last summer.