



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Environmental Procedures Manual
July 2026

APPENDIX A. SPECIES DATA SHEETS



Topeka Shiner

(*Notropis topeka*)

The Topeka shiner, an endangered species, is a small minnow that lives in small to mid-size prairie streams in the central United States where it is usually found in pool and run areas. Suitable streams tend to have good water quality and cool to moderate temperatures. In Iowa, Minnesota, and portions of South Dakota, Topeka shiners also live in oxbows and off-channel pools.



Status

Endangered (listed Dec. 15, 1998)

Range

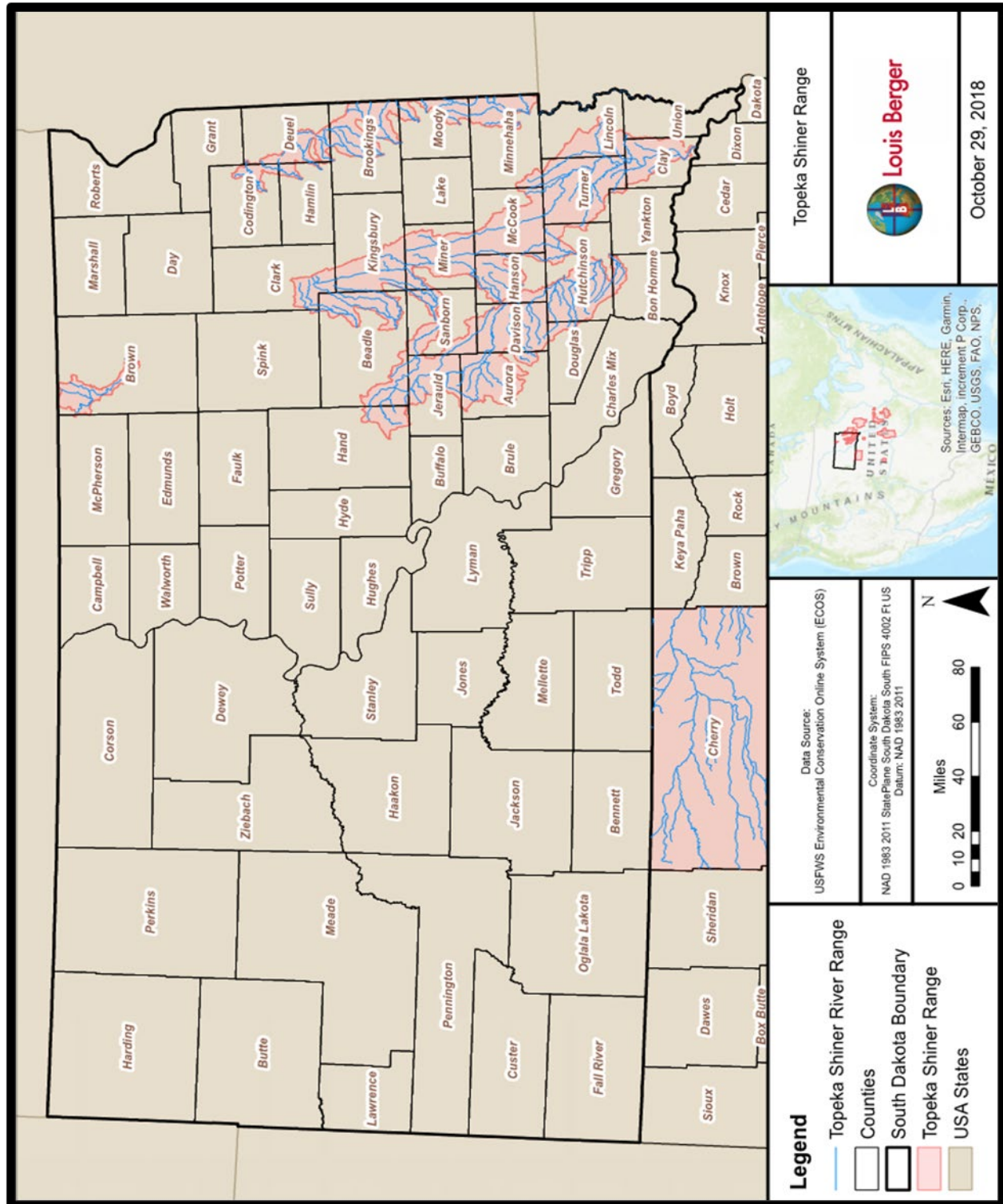
South Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, and Nebraska

Critical Habitat

Designated July 27, 2004

The Topeka shiner is a small minnow, normally less than 3 inches long. It is silvery-green with a distinct dark stripe preceding the dorsal fin, a dusky stripe along the entire length of the fish. Scales above this line are outlined with dark pigment, appearing cross-hatched. Scales below this line have no pigment and are silvery-white in color.

Current Topeka Shiner Range from USFWS



Source:
USFWS. <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/fishes/TopekaShiner/>
SD DOT. <http://www.sddot.com/business/environmental/endangered>



Whooping Crane

(*Grus americana*)

Habitat

Whooping Cranes breed and nest along lake margins or among rushes and sedges in marshes and meadows. The water in these wetlands is anywhere from 8 to 10 inches to as much as 18 inches deep. Many of the ponds have border growths of bulrushes and cattails, which occasionally cover entire bays and arms of the larger lakes. Nesting has also been reported on muskrat houses and on damp prairie sites. Whooping Cranes prefer sites with minimal human disturbance. Wetlands provide the Whooping Crane with protection from terrestrial predators.

Interaction with Humans

Whooping Cranes tolerate very little human disturbance, especially during nesting, brood rearing, and during flightless molt (May to mid-August). Slight human disturbance is often sufficient to cause adults to desert nests. On wintering grounds, Whooping Cranes will tolerate human disturbance if it is not associated with obvious threats.

Status

Endangered (listed
March 11, 1967)

Range

Kansas, Montana,
Nebraska, North
Dakota, Oklahoma,
South Dakota, Texas,
Wisconsin

Description

At about 5 ft. (1.5 m) tall, Whooping Crane is the tallest bird in North America. Adults are white with black primaries and a bare red face and crown. The bill is olive-gray, eyes are yellow, and legs and feet are gray-black. Immature Whooping Cranes are cinnamon-toned, with some white, and without red on head and face.

They are often confused with the Sandhill Crane, the Snow Goose, and the American White Pelican.



Image provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Image provided by U.S. Forest Service

American Burying Beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*)

Habitat

Historical records offer little insight into what type of habitat was preferred by the American burying beetle. Current information suggests that this species is a habitat generalist, or one that lives in many types of habitat, with a slight preference for grasslands and open understory oak hickory forests. However, the beetles are carrion specialists in that they need carrion the size of a dove or a chipmunk to reproduce. Carrion availability may be the greatest factor determining where the species can survive.

Life History

Burying beetles are unusual in that both the male and female take part in raising the young. Male burying beetles often locate carcasses first and then attract a mate. Beetles often fight over the carcass with usually the largest male and female individuals winning. The victors bury the carcass, the pair mates, and the female lays her eggs in an adjacent tunnel. Within a few days, the larvae develop and both parents feed and tend their young, an unusual activity among insects. Brood size usually ranges from one to 30 young, but 12 to 15 is the average size. The larvae spend about a week feeding off the carcass then crawl into the soil to pupate or develop. Mature American burying beetles emerge from the soil 45 to 60 days after their parents initially bury the carcass. Adult burying beetles live for only 12 months.

Why Are They So Rare?

Biologists have not unlocked the mystery why the American burying beetle has disappeared from so many areas. Widespread pesticide use may have caused local populations to disappear. The dramatic disappearance of this insect from many areas, however, took place before widespread use of DDT. Lack of small carcasses to bury prevents reproduction, and land use changes have reduced the quantity of small- to medium-sized birds and mammals preferred by the species.

Status

Endangered
(listed July 31, 1989)

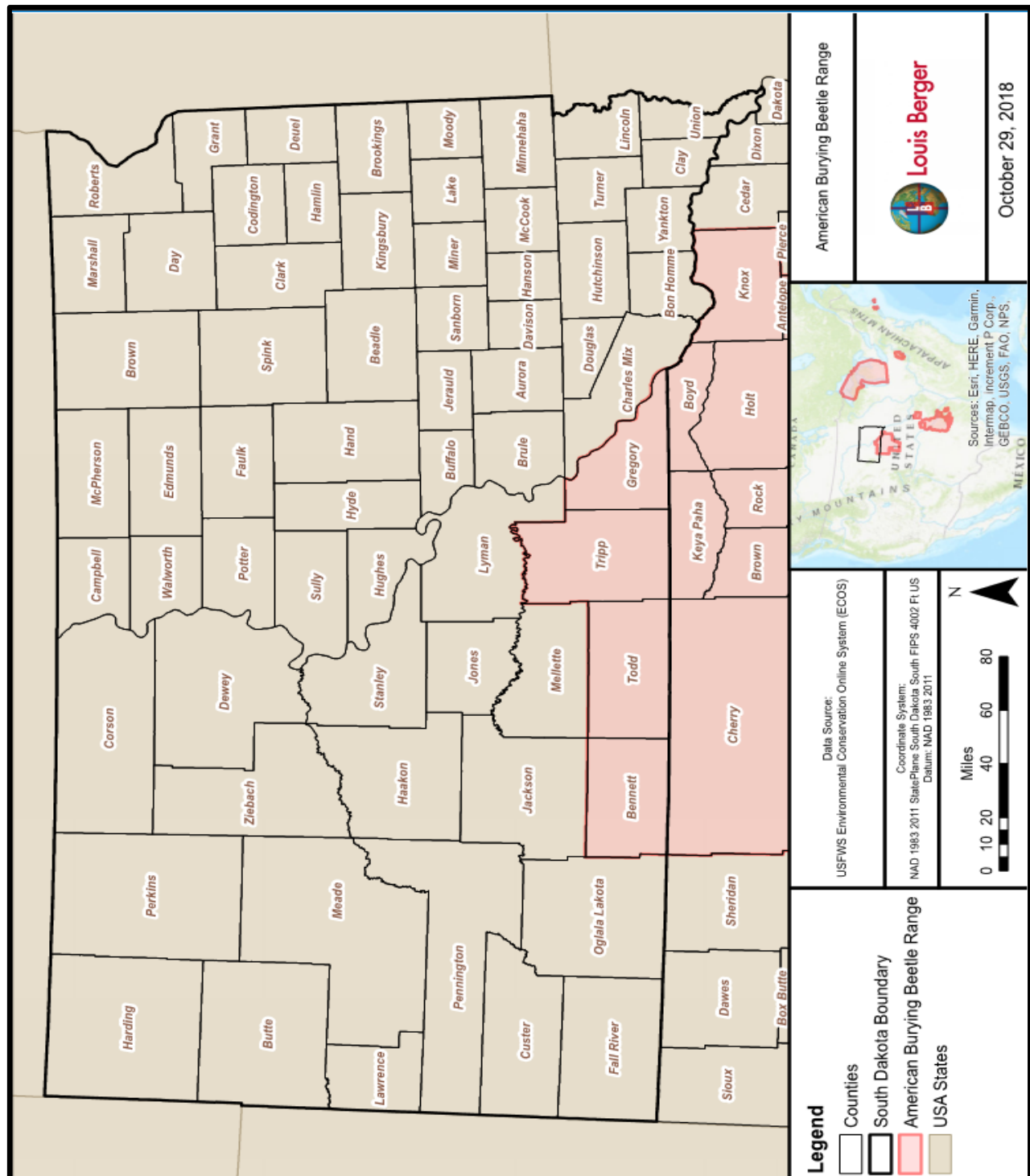
Range

Arkansas, Kansas,
Massachusetts, Missouri,
Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma,
Rhode Island, South Dakota,
and Texas

Description

About an inch and a half long, the American burying beetle can be identified by its striking, distinctive coloring. The body is shiny black, and on its wing covers are four scalloped, orange-red markings. Most distinctively, there is an orange-red marking on the beetle's pronotum, a large shield-like area just behind the head. The American burying beetle has orange facial markings and orange tips on the antennae. The beetles are strong fliers, moving as far as a kilometer in one night.

Current American Burying Beetle Range from USFWS



Source:
USFWS.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/profile/speciesProfile?spcode=I028>, <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/oklahoma/ABBICP.htm>

USFS: https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/insects/ambbb/abb_fact.html

SD DOT: <http://www.sddot.com/business/environmental/endangered/Default.aspx>



Images provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Bald Eagle

(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)

Habitat

Bald Eagles live near rivers, lakes, and marshes where they can find fish, their staple food. Bald Eagles will also feed on waterfowl, turtles, rabbits, snakes, and other small animals and carrion. Bald Eagles require a good food base, perching areas, and nesting sites. Their habitat includes estuaries, large lakes, reservoirs, rivers, and some seacoasts. In winter, the birds congregate near open water in tall trees for spotting prey and night roosts for sheltering.

Life History

Eagles mate for life, choosing the tops of large trees to build nests, which they typically use and enlarge each year. Nests may reach 10 feet across and weigh a half ton. The birds travel great distances, but usually return to breeding grounds within 100 miles of the place where they were raised. Bald Eagles may live 15 to 25 years in the wild.

Recovery

On August 9, 2007, the bald eagle was removed from the federal list of threatened and endangered species. After nearly disappearing from most of the United States decades ago, the bald eagle is now flourishing across the nation and no longer needs the protection of the Endangered Species Act. Although they are delisted, bald eagles are still protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Lacey Act.

Status

Delisted Due to
Recovery
August 9, 2007

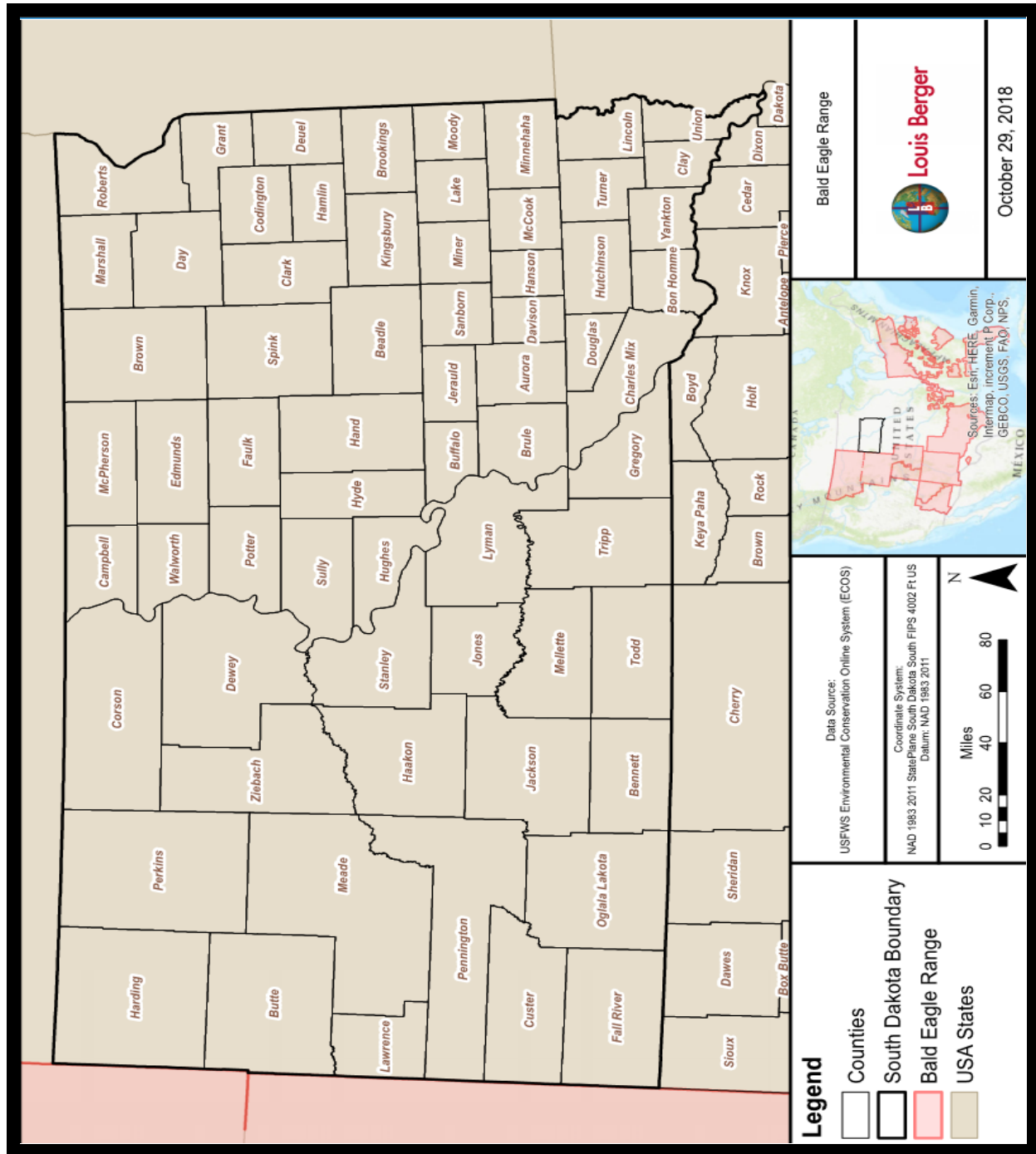
Historical Range

Lower 48 States

Description

A large raptor, the bald eagle has a wingspread of about 7 feet. Adults have a dark brown body and wings, white head and tail, and a yellow beak. Juveniles are mostly brown with white mottling on the body, tail, and undersides of wings. Adult plumage usually is obtained by the 6th year. In flight, the Bald Eagle often soars or glides with the wings held at a right angle to the body. As in most other raptors, females are larger than males; otherwise similar in appearance.

Current Bald Eagle Range from USFWS



Source:

USFWS. <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/profile/speciesProfile?spcode=B008>, <https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/bald-and-golden-eagle-information.php>, <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/eagle/>
SD DOT. <http://www.sddot.com/business/environmental/endangered/Default.aspx>



*Images provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Photo on right shows bat with White-nose syndrome*

Northern Long-Eared Bat

(*Myotis septentrionalis*)

Winter Habitat

Northern long-eared bats spend winter hibernating in caves and mines, called hibernacula. They use areas in various sized caves or mines with constant temperatures, high humidity, and no air currents. Within hibernacula, surveyors find them hibernating most often in small crevices or cracks, often with only the nose and ears visible.

Summer Habitat

During the summer, northern long-eared bats roost singly or in colonies underneath bark, in cavities or in crevices of both live trees and snags (dead trees). Males and non-reproductive females may also roost in cooler places, like caves and mines. Northern long-eared bats seem to be flexible in selecting roosts, choosing roost trees based on suitability to retain bark or provide cavities or crevices.

White Nose Syndrome

White Nose Syndrome, a fungal infection of hibernating bats, is currently the predominant threat to this bat. Although the disease has not yet spread throughout the Northern Long-eared Bats entire range, it is currently found in at least 25 of 37 states where the species occurs.

Status

Threatened
May 4, 2015

Historical Range

The Northern Long-Eared Bat is found across much of the eastern and north central United States and all Canadian provinces from the Atlantic coast west to the southern Northwest Territories and eastern British Columbia. The species range includes 37 states.

The Northern Long-Eared Bat is a medium-sized bat with a body length of 3 to 3.7 inches but a wing-span of 9 to 10 inches. Their fur color can be medium to dark brown on the back and tawny to pale-brown on the underside. This bat is distinguished by its long ears, particularly as compared to other bats in its genus, *Myotis*.

Legend

- Counties
- South Dakota Boundary
- Northern Long Eared Bat Range
- USA States

Data Source:
USFWS Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS)

Coordinate System:
NAD 1983 2011 StatePlane South Dakota South FIPS 4002 FLUS
Datum: NAD 1983 2011

Miles
0 10 20 40 60 80

N

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS,

Louis Berger

October 29, 2018

Northern Long-Eared Bat Range