



10 FACTS ABOUT
'Ōpe'ape'a, the Hawaiian Hoary Bat
Lasiurus cinereus semotus
Federally and State Endangered

1. Hawaiian Hoary Bats are the only native land mammal in the Hawaiian Islands.
2. Unlike most bats on the mainland, Hawaiian Hoary Bats do not congregate in caves but are solitary and roost in trees. They are very difficult to see in their tree roosts, but you may see them flying at night while hunting.
3. Because they are solitary, these bats are difficult to find. This means very little is known about them, including accurate population numbers.
4. The Hawaiian name for the Hawaiian Hoary Bat, 'Ōpe'ape'a, means "half-leaf" and is due to its wings resembling the bottom of a taro leaf. The name "hoary bat" refers to the frost-like coloring of its back.
5. Hawaiian Hoary Bats only eat insects such as termites and mosquitoes.
6. Microbats around the world use echolocation to fly around obstacles, such as trees and buildings, in the dark, and to hunt for insects. Most bat calls are too high-pitched (up to 200 khz) for humans to hear (humans hear from 20hz to 15-20khz). The hoary bats are one of very few bats that use lower frequency calls, including some that overlap with human hearing. This means that if you listen carefully, you may be able to hear these bats "clicking" at night.
7. They weigh as much three quarters (about half an ounce) and are considered large for a (micro) bat.
8. Hawaii is rabies-free and Hawaiian Hoary Bats do not carry rabies, but they are susceptible to it like humans.
9. These bats birth twins, once a year in the summer. Bat pups cannot fly for several months after they are born, and typically occupy trees 15 feet and taller. For this reason, no trees ≥ 15 feet tall may be cut or trimmed during the Hawaiian hoary bat pupping season from 01 June – 15 Sep.
10. They can be found in the lowlands and the mountains, and are sometimes even seen foraging over saltwater!