

# *Eptesicus fuscus*

(Big brown bat)

**Distribution:** This species is widespread through the Americas. It ranges from southern Canada all the way to the northern regions of South America. In the Antilles it can be found in Cuba, the Caiman Islands and the Bahamas, along with Dominica and Barbados in the Lesser Antilles. There are twelve subspecies, of which *Eptesicus fuscus petersoni* is endemic to Isla Juventud and *Eptesicus fuscus dutertrei* is distributed across the Bahamas, Caiman Islands, and Cuba's main island, including some of the keys to the north such as Salinas and Santa Maria. It is a common species.

**Physical description:** It is a medium sized bat with a body weight of 13-19 g. The forearm length is 41-51 mm. The muzzle is wide and short. The fur is long and thick with a dark brown colouration.

**Roost:** They roost in caves as well as man-made structures. In caves, they are found in the areas that are most ventilated and exposed. They are crevice dwellers, and can fit into the tightest spots. It is common to find them in small groups squeezed into the fissures of the walls and ceilings.

**Diet:** They feed on insects, primarily, Coleoptera (beetles).



Photo by Melissa Donnelly