



Watershed  
**Landcare**  
Incorporated

# EASTERN BENT-WINGED BAT

## *Miniopterus orianae oceanensis* in the Watershed Landcare region



Photo credit: Marg Turton, NSW

## SPECIES PROFILE

The Eastern Bent-winged Bat has chocolate to reddish-brown fur on its back and slightly lighter coloured fur on its belly. It has a short snout and a high 'domed' head with short rounded ears.

The wing membranes of this bat attach to the ankle, not to the base of the toe. The last bone of the third finger is much longer than the other finger-bones giving the "bent wing" appearance. It weighs up to 20 grams, has a head and body length of about 6cm and a wingspan of 30-35cm.

Eastern Bent-winged Bats are nocturnal. At night they hunt in forested areas, catching moths and other flying insects, generally above the tree canopy. By day they roost primarily in caves but will use other roosting habitat such as derelict mines, storm-water tunnels, buildings and other man-made structures.

They form discrete populations centered on a maternity cave that is used annually in spring and summer for the birth and rearing of young. There are only a handful of known maternity caves in NSW which have very specific temperature and humidity regimes. Breeding or roosting colonies can number from 100 to 150,000 individuals. In late summer nursery colonies disband and populations disperse within about a 300km range of the maternity caves.

In our region, the species is widespread but mostly occurs in low-moderate densities. They utilise caves and man-made structures including old mining shafts. The bats hibernate through winter, when food sources are scarce, with mating occurring prior to hibernation.

*Conservation Status in NSW:*  
**Vulnerable**

## LOCAL DISTRIBUTION

The Eastern Bent-winged Bat is found across nearly the entire eastern seaboard of Australia.

In the Watershed Landcare region, the main sightings have been made along the western side of the mountains; particularly in National Parks and Reserves.

The species is, however, very widespread in the region, with its ultrasonic calls often recorded across a range of habitat types, including in open and developed areas.



# EASTERN BENT-WINGED BAT



Photo credits: Andrew Scott, North Sydney Council (2014)

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- Participate in community fox and feral cat control programs, particularly in areas surrounding sandstone cliffs and old mine shafts.
- Retain native vegetation around roost sites and increase woodland patches and connectivity through revegetation. This includes being mindful of altering vegetation and airflow within or around cave entrances and water flows and hydrology in the surrounding area.
- Minimise the use of pesticides in foraging areas.
- Protect roosting sites from damage or disturbance for example, by maintaining egress at disused mine shafts.
- Cavers should not access caves during maternity or hibernation periods.

## WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Websites that allow you to record your sightings of the Eastern Bent-winged Bat (listed right), also enable you to search records for local populations of this species and others.

Information for this fact sheet was sourced from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and the Environment. You can visit their website for additional information via the following link:

[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/ThreatenedSpeciesApp](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/ThreatenedSpeciesApp)

## REPORT A SIGHTING

Reporting your sightings of threatened species such as the Eastern Bent-winged Bat contributes to our understanding of the species' populations in our local area.

The sightings you report may be used in research and conservation programs and will help guide decisions on where government and land management activities will occur.

You can record your sightings online using:

- the NSW BioNet Atlas  
[www.bionet.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bionet.nsw.gov.au)
- the Atlas of Living Australia  
[www.ala.org.au](http://www.ala.org.au)