

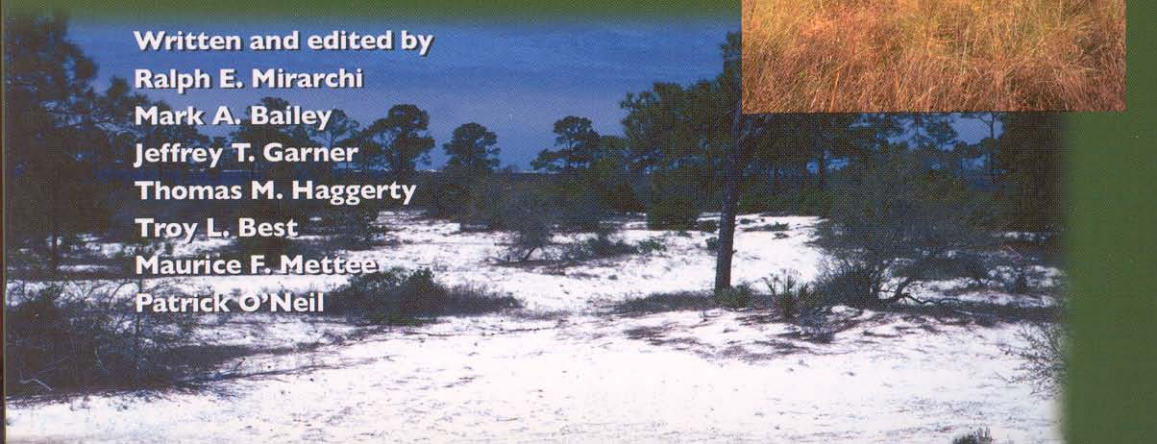
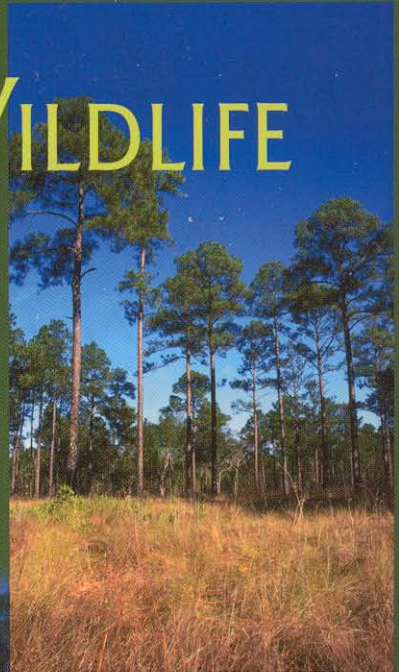


ALABAMA WILDLIFE

VOLUME FOUR

Conservation and Management Recommendations for Imperiled Wildlife

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GRAY MYOTIS

Myotis grisescens Howell

To avoid adverse impacts on this species, hibernation sites should not be disturbed, except during necessary monitoring efforts, and maternity colonies should not be disturbed between April and mid-July. Thanks to conservation efforts that have restricted access by humans to hibernation and maternity caves in recent years, populations have stabilized or increased in Alabama and elsewhere in the southeastern United States. However, it is important that protective measures, such as restricting access by humans, should remain in place at all hibernation and maternity caves in Alabama, and elsewhere. Colonies should be censused at least every two years to monitor population trends. Efforts should be made to encourage reestablishment of populations at historic roosts by constructing barriers to restrict access by humans, by modifying or replacing existing gates that have inadvertently discouraged use of sites by bats, and by modifying caves to conditions present when gray myotis were present. Efforts to educate the general public about what they can do to aid in conservation of bats should be continued by private organizations, state and federal agencies, radio and television programs, and our public schools. In addition, efforts should be made to acquire more information on status of populations in southern Alabama, especially caves near the Florida Panhandle. One site in Conecuh County (Sanders Cave) is the only cave where gray bats have been known to occur in southern Alabama within the past 20 years; the cave also houses the only maternity colony of the southeastern myotis in Alabama. This cave should be purchased and public access restricted; this may be a critical habitat site for the gray myotis in that portion of the state and it is the only maternity of the southeastern myotis in Alabama.

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