An Investigation of the Validity of the Bat Species *Myotis Sodalis* (*Chiroptera Vespertilionidae*)

Jeffrey Skibins  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Thomas Griffiths, Faculty Advisor  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc](https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc)


This is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.  
©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.
AN INVESTIGATION OF THE VALIDITY OF THE
BAT SPECIES MYOTIS SODALIS (CHIROPTERA
VESPERTILIONIDAE)

Jeffrey Skibins, Dept. of Biology, IWU, Thomas Griffiths*

In 1929, Miller and Allen, (Bull. U.S. Natl. Mus., 144: viii + 218 pp) named a new bat species, *Myotis sodalis* on the basis of examinations of museum specimens. Since then, investigations have suggested that the population of *Myotis sodalis* has decreased dramatically. This reduction in number has been significant enough to warrant Federal Endangered Species status. Alternatively, it is possible that *Myotis sodalis* never existed as a species. I believe that this taxon was incorrectly recognized and named. In order to test whether this is the case I will perform a computerized cluster analysis on skin and skull measurements obtained by Dr. Thomas Griffiths. These results may show that *Myotis sodalis* is not a separate species and thus does not warrant Federal protection.