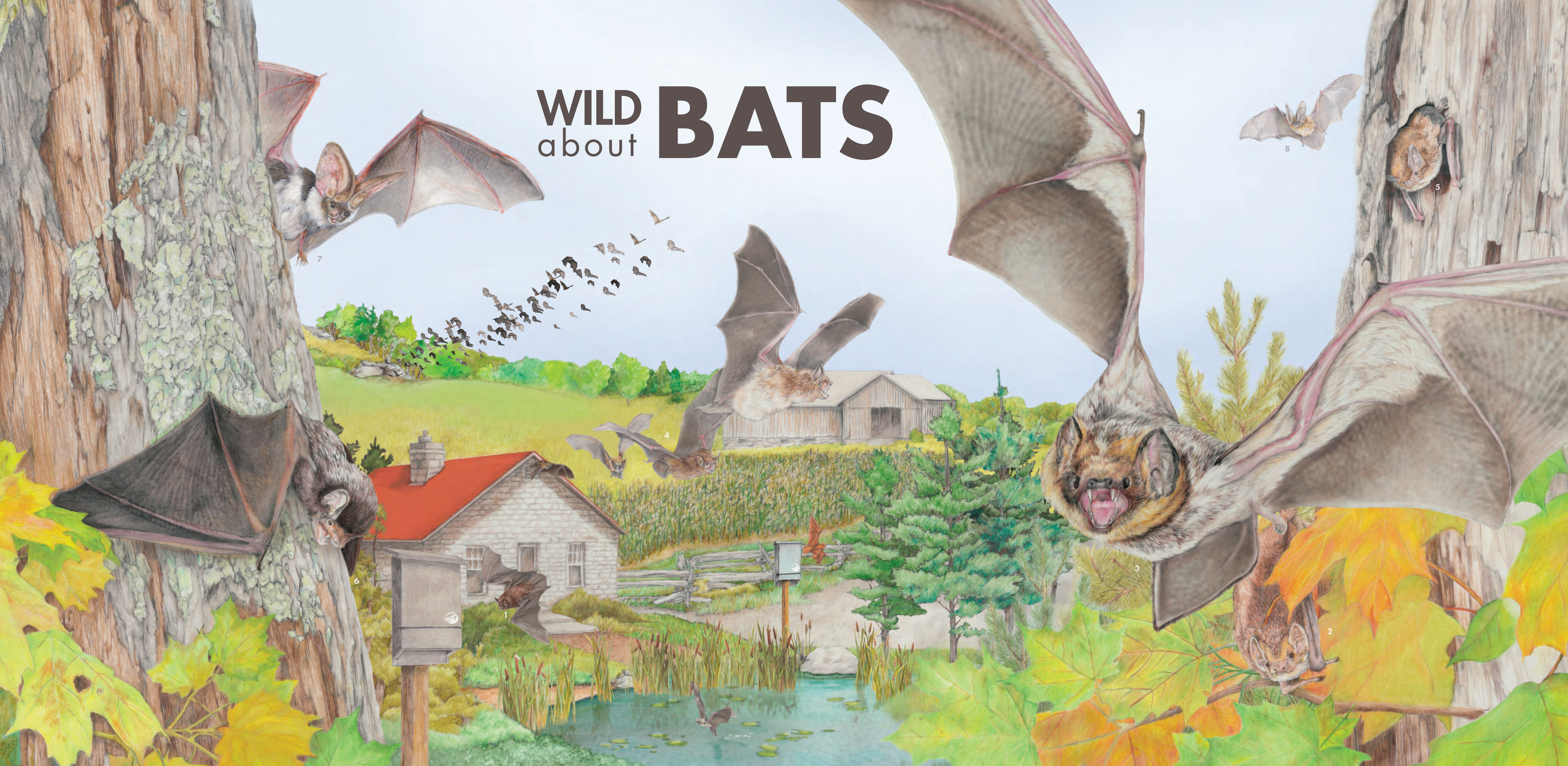


WILD about BATS



Contrary to popular belief, bats are not blind, do not get caught in your hair and are definitely not flying rodents. Despite these negative associations, bats are important world-wide for a variety of reasons including insect control, pollination and seed dispersal. Canadian bats are nature's night patrol, scouring the evening sky for moths, beetles, mosquitoes and other nocturnal flying insects. Our bats are particularly beneficial for agriculture as they consume tons of insect pests that devastate crop yields. So gaze up at the night sky and give silent thanks to the small winged wonders hard at work.

White-nose syndrome (WNS), a disease caused by an invasive cave-dwelling fungus, has killed millions of hibernating bats, resulting in the endangerment of some species in North America. Urbanization, habitat loss, pesticides and wind turbines pose additional threats. Between these environmental factors and their low birth rate, our bats need all the help they can get if they are going to survive.

There are over 1,300 bat species around the world. This poster describes the characteristics of the 19 bat species native to Canada and provides a visual representation of eight species in particular.

Canadian species depicted in poster:

1 | BIG BROWN BAT (*Eptesicus fuscus*)
Identification: 11 – 13 cm body length, 32 – 40 cm wingspan. Tan to dark brown in colour. Pronounced muzzle. Common. **Summer roosts:** Buildings, bridges, bat houses, loose tree bark, tree cavities and rock crevices. **Fun fact:** This is one of the most common species to roost in your home.

2 | EASTERN RED BAT (*Lasius borealis*)
Identification: 9 – 12 cm body length, 28 – 33 cm wingspan. Multicoloured with yellow-red-orange and yellow-greyish fur. Common. **Summer roosts:** Trees or shrubs of deciduous forests. **Fun fact:** Due to the presence of four mammary glands instead of the usual two, this bat gestates longer and gives birth to one to four pups.

3 | HOARY BAT (*Lasiurus cinereus*)
Identification: 13 – 15 cm body length, 36 – 41 cm wingspan. Canada's biggest bat. Black with brown-grey fur and white tips on its back and tail; yellow head and throat. Common. **Summer roosts:** Hedgerows, trees and other vegetation. **Fun facts:** Common for females to give birth to twins. The white tips on the fur provide a camouflage when roosting on trees covered in lichen.

4 | LITTLE BROWN MYOTIS (*Myotis lucifugus*)
Identification: 6 – 10 cm body length, 22 – 27 cm wingspan. Brown in colour. Common but population devastated by WNS. **Summer roosts:** Buildings, tree cavities and bat houses. **Fun fact:** The oldest documented Little Brown Myotis is 32 years old and is thought to have consumed over 14 million insects over the course of its life.

5 | NORTHERN LONG-EARED MYOTIS (*Myotis septentrionalis*)
Identification: 7 – 10 cm body length, 22 – 27 cm wingspan. Large black ears and a yellow-brown body. Common. **Summer roosts:** Tight crevices and holes, trees, caves and buildings. **Fun fact:** This species tends to switch between several roosts, often on a daily basis.

6 | SILVER-HAIRED BAT (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*)
Identification: 9 – 11 cm body length, 27 – 31 cm wingspan. Black to dark brown in colour. Common. **Summer roosts:** Tree hollows, behind loose bark, bird nests, buildings and caves. **Fun fact:** Pups are born with folded ears.

7 | SPOTTED BAT (*Euderma maculatum*)
Identification: 11 – 12 cm body length, 21 – 25 cm wingspan. Three white spots on its all-black back; the largest ears of any other bat species in North America. Common. **Summer roosts:** Small cracks in cliffs and rocks. **Fun fact:** Pups are born without signature spots of the adults.

8 | TOWNSEND'S BIG-EARED BAT (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)
Identification: 10 cm body length, 29 – 34 cm wingspan. Pale brown-black-grey in colour with two visible glandular swellings on its nose. Common. **Summer roosts:** Caves, mines and buildings. **Fun fact:** Most mating occurs during hibernation from November to February.

Canadian species not depicted in poster:

BRAZILIAN FREE-TAILED BAT (*Tadarida brasiliensis*)
Identification: 8 – 10 cm body length, 28 cm wingspan. Brown in colour with large square ears, a wrinkled upper lip, and a pronounced tail. Uncommon. **Summer roosts:** Caves, bridges, buildings, hollow trees and mines. **Fun fact:** This species of bat is the record holder for fastest horizontal flier in the animal kingdom, reaching speeds of up to 160 km/h.

CALIFORNIA MYOTIS (*Myotis californicus*)
Identification: 7 – 10 cm body length, 22 – 26 cm wingspan. Reddish-brown to dark brown in colour. Common. **Summer roosts:** Rocks and trees, caves, tree cavities, mines, buildings, bridges, shrubs and bat houses. **Fun fact:** Its kidneys have adapted for survival in dry habitats.

EASTERN SMALL-FOOTED MYOTIS (*Myotis leibii*)
Identification: 7 – 9 cm body length, 21 – 25 cm wingspan. Golden-brown in colour. Uncommon. **Summer roosts:** Hollow trees, under loose tree bark, rock crevices. **Fun fact:** Contrary to most bat species which hibernate by hanging upside down, this species hibernates horizontally, sometimes on cave floors.

FRINGED MYOTIS (*Myotis thysanodes*)
Identification: 8 – 10 cm body length, 27 – 32 cm wingspan. Pale brown but with dark brown ears. Common. **Summer roosts:** Buildings, caves, tunnels, mines, rock crevices, attics and trees. **Fun fact:** In Canada, it is only found in the grasslands of British Columbia, representing less than five per cent of the species' global range.

KEEN'S MYOTIS (*Myotis keenii*)
Identification: 7 – 9 cm body length, 21 – 26 cm wingspan. Silky brown fur. Common. **Summer roosts:** Coastal montane forest, caves, tree cavities, loose bark, rock crevices and buildings. **Fun fact:** Along with the consumption of flying insects, this species also consumes prey, like spiders, that inhabit terrestrial surfaces.

LONG-LEGGED MYOTIS (*Myotis volans*)
Identification: 8 – 10 cm body length, 22 – 30 cm wingspan. Dark brown wing colour. Common. **Summer roosts:** Buildings, rock crevices and trees. **Fun fact:** Its diet mainly consists of moths.

PALLID BAT (*Anrozous pallidus*)
Identification: 6 – 9 cm body length, 35 – 41 cm wingspan. Pale stomach, brown back, grey wings and a pig-like snout. Uncommon in Canada, it is only found in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia. **Summer roosts:** Caves, rock crevices, mines, hollow trees and buildings. **Fun fact:** Unlike most species of bat, some of the Pallid Bat's unique vocalizations are audible to humans.

TRI-COLORED BAT (*Perimyotis subflavus*)
Identification: 7 – 9 cm body length, 21 – 26 cm wingspan. Each hair is black at the root, then yellow, with brown tips. Uncommon. **Summer roosts:** Tree cavities and foliage. **Fun fact:** They spend anywhere from six to nine months in hibernation in roosts with high humidity and constant, cool temperatures; conditions ideal for WNS.

WESTERN LONG-EARED MYOTIS (*Myotis evotis*)
Identification: 8 – 10 cm body length, 25 – 30 cm wingspan. Pale brown in colour with a black face and ears. Common. **Summer roosts:** Under loose bark of trees, stumps/snags, bat houses, caves and rock crevices. **Fun fact:** The long ears of this species are perfect for listening to the sounds of prey walking across plant surfaces, a process called gleaning.

WESTERN SMALL-FOOTED MYOTIS (*Myotis ciliolabrum*)
Identification: 8 – 10 cm body length, 21 – 25 cm wingspan. Yellow-brown in colour with a black face. Common. **Summer roosts:** Caves, rock crevices, clay banks, buildings, bridges, mines and bat houses. **Fun fact:** This bat is well known for its exceptionally small feet.

YUMA MYOTIS (*Myotis yumanensis*)
Identification: 8 – 10 cm body length, 22 – 26 cm wingspan. Dark brown to tan/grey in colour. Common. **Summer roosts:** Caves, attics, buildings, mines and bat houses. **Fun fact:** The majority of its diet consists of aquatic insects, thus it prefers habitats close to a permanent water source.

* Confirmed migratory species have been indicated with an "***". Canadian bats survive the winter either by migrating to a warmer climate or by hibernating. Hibernating bats roost in locations where the temperature is low and humidity is high. Cave sites are ideal because the climate is relatively stable; buildings are a less favourable option.

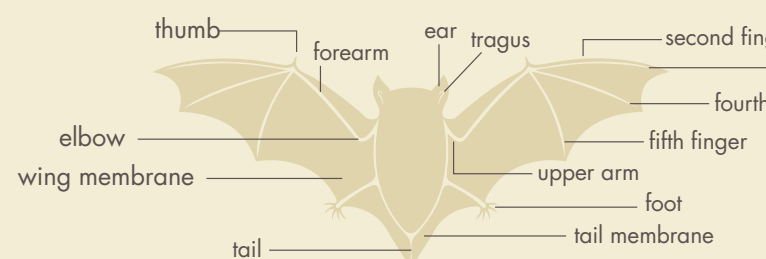


Illustration: Astrid Colton Special Thanks: Mike Anissimoff, Sarah Simon

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