



# BAT IN A BOX

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**BAT-TASTIC RESOURCES**  
to make your Halloween event

# BOO-TIFUL





### THE PROBLEM: WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME

Wind turbines and habitat loss are no longer the only ongoing threats to Canada's diverse bat population. Bat species in Canada are being decimated by a disease called [white nose syndrome](#) (WNS). This rapidly spreading disease is wiping out entire colonies of little brown bats and threatening other species in Ontario and across Canada.

So far white-nose syndrome (WNS) is only found in the eastern half of North America. Bat species that live in the western half have never been exposed to WNS and it is unknown how they would be affected by it. Even in the east, not all bat species are affected by WNS. Some species never enter caves and so are never exposed to the fungus that causes WNS. Some bat species that do enter caves seem to suffer less mortality than others, possibly due to differing physiologies. Unfortunately it is the most common bat species in Canada that are suffering the most. So far scientists have found nine bat species with the fungus, but only six of these species develop symptoms associated with WNS. The six include the little brown bat, northern long-eared bat, tricolored bat, small-footed bat, Indiana bat, and big brown bat, with the first three species suffering the greatest mortality. For instance, little brown bats often decline by 90 to 100 per cent in WNS positive hibernacula, while big brown bats declines are more often in the 30 to 60 per cent range. Bat species in Western Europe that are exposed to the fungus do not appear to decline at all! The reason(s) for the differences are not known but studies are ongoing. Understanding why some bat species are resistant to WNS may offer insight for a future cure.



### WHY SAVE THE BATS:

Bats makes up nearly a quarter of known mammal species and are second only to rodents in terms of diversity. Most bats eat insects, but there also species that eat fruit, nectar, fish and other vertebrates. There are 18 bat species found in Canada. All bats in Canada are fairly small and eat insects. British Columbia has the greatest diversity of bats (16 species) among the provinces. Eight of those species do not occur anywhere else in Canada. The biggest bat in Canada is the hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*) which weighs 26 grams with a 40 centimetres wingspan. The smallest is the tricoloured bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) which weighs four to 10 grams with a wingspan of 21 to 26 cm. Bats consume a variety of insects, some of which are important agricultural and forestry pests. In other areas of the world bats are also important for seed dispersal and pollination. In the US alone it is estimated that bats provide insect control services worth \$3.7 to 5.3 billion per year.

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## MEDIA ALERT

The Canadian Wildlife Federation, in association with  
are encouraging you to join us as we "HELP THE BATS" this Halloween during our annual

**WHAT:**

**WHO:** All residents of

**WHEN:**

**WHERE:**

**MAP:**

**COST:**

**WHY:** Wind turbines and habitat loss are no longer the only ongoing threats to Canada's diverse bat population. Bat species in Canada are being decimated by a disease called [white nose syndrome](#) (WNS). This rapidly spreading disease is wiping out entire colonies of little brown bats and threatening other species in Ontario and across Canada.

So far scientists have found nine bat species with the fungus, but only six of these species develop symptoms of WNS. The six include the little brown bat, northern long-eared bat, tricolored bat, small-footed bat, Indiana bat, and big brown bat. The first three species suffer the greatest mortality – for example, little brown bats often decline by 90 to 100 per cent in WNS positive hibernacula, while big brown bat declines are more often in the 30 to 60 per cent range. Bat species in Western Europe exposed to the fungus do not appear to decline at all. The reason(s) for the differences are not known but studies are ongoing.

Understanding why some bat species are resistant to WNS may offer insight for a future cure. With the generous assistance of sponsors and supporters, the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) is hoping to HELP THE BATS! For further details visit [HelpTheBats.ca](http://HelpTheBats.ca).

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES:**

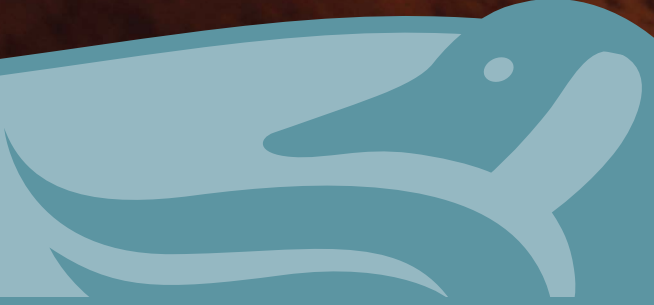




# BATS AREN'T SCARY. EXTINCTION IS.

Join us for an event designed to help save Canadian bat species at risk.

Visit [HelpTheBats.ca](http://HelpTheBats.ca) for details.



**EVENT**

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**LOCATION**

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**TIME**

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SOCIAL MEDIA  
BUTTONS



Facebook Post image



Twitter Post image





### BATTY FACTS

- Approximately a quarter of all mammals are bats. There are more than 1,300 species of bats in the world.
- The average bat will probably outlive your pet dog. The average lifespan of a bat varies, but for many species the average lifespan can be more than 20 years.
- For their size, bats are among the slowest reproducing mammals on Earth.
- Bats have only one pup a year, making them very vulnerable to declines in their populations.
- At birth, a bat pup weighs up to 25 per cent of its mother's body weight, which is like a woman giving birth to a 31 pound baby!
- Offspring typically are cared for in maternity colonies, where females congregate to bear and raise the young.
- Male bats do not help to raise the pups.
- All bats in Canada are insectivorous, eating moths, beetles, gnats, mosquitoes, midges and mayflies, among others.
- A single little brown bat can catch around 1,200 mosquito-sized insects in one hour.
- A nursing little brown bat mother can eat more than her body weight nightly (up to 4,500 insects).
- An anticoagulant found in vampire bat saliva, that is used to keep blood from clotting in bats, has been made into a medication to help prevent strokes in people.



## 1. BATS ARE RODENTS.

- ⋮ Nope! Bats aren't even related to rodents. In fact, they're more closely related to primates and lemurs
- ⋮ than they are to mice or rats. Bats are part of their own order of mammals called Chiroptera which
- ⋮ means hand-wing.

## 2. BATS ARE BLIND.

- ⋮ Bats can see very well, thank you very much. I think people most often get confused on this point
- ⋮ because they know most bats are reliant on echolocation to make their way. Since most bats can't see
- ⋮ in the dark, when they are most active, they rely on their built in sonar system to navigate at incredibly
- ⋮ high speeds in absolute darkness!

## 3. BATS WILL FLY INTO YOUR HAIR.

- ⋮ Where did this one come from, anyway? Bats don't have much interest in humans. So if a bat is
- ⋮ swooping around your head, he's probably after the mosquito about to take a bite out of you.

## 4. BATS SUCK BLOOD.

- ⋮ The only bats that do drink blood are vampire bats found in Mexico as well as Central and South
- ⋮ America. They lick blood off of cows, chickens and other animals. Did you notice that I used the word
- ⋮ lick? They don't bite! So please stop worrying about bats. The bats that live here in Canada eat insects
- ⋮ (take that mosquitos!), and play an important role in pest control.

## 5. BATS HAVE RABIES.

- ⋮ Okay, we should probably clear something up here. Bats can get rabies. But seeing that less than one
- ⋮ per cent of bats actually contract rabies, the threat against humans is incredibly small. Of course, we're
- ⋮ not encouraging you to head out to a cave and try to handle these animals — they're wild so they're
- ⋮ likely to bite out of self-defense.





# **BATTY HALLOWEEN BASH TOOL KIT**

Dress Up Your Party!





# Dress Up Your Party!

Print these fun batty party decorations to add to your event.



## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Print these shapes
2. Cut them
3. Hang them as decoration pieces

# Dress Up Your Party!

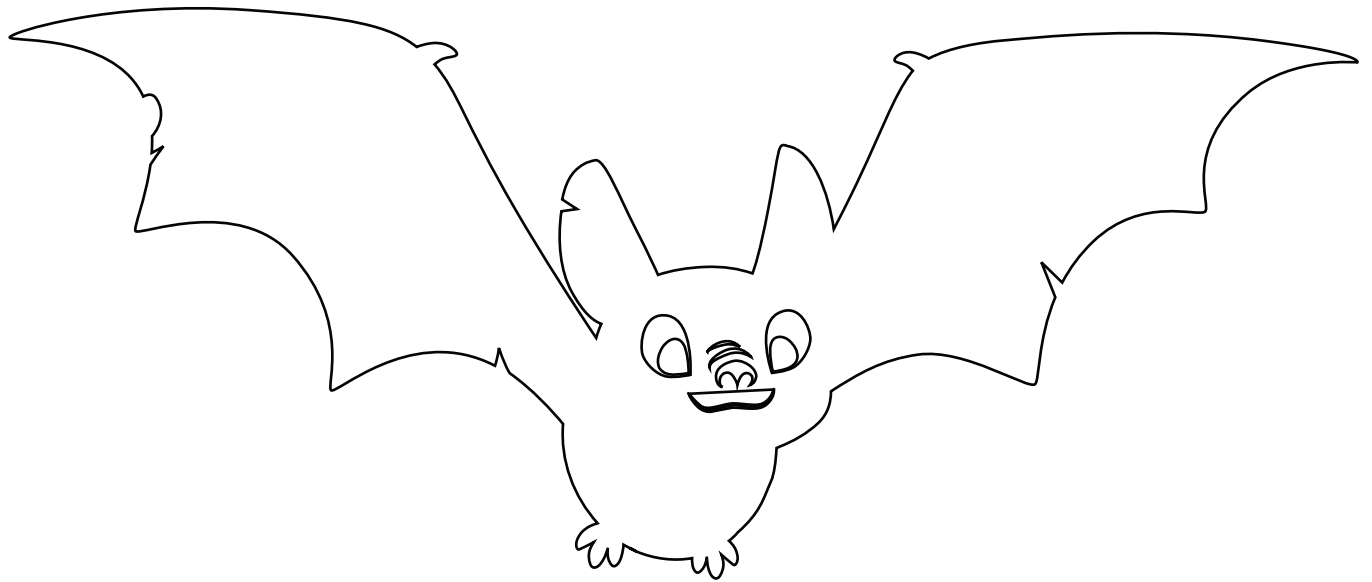
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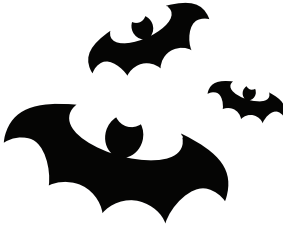
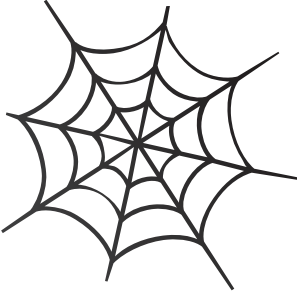
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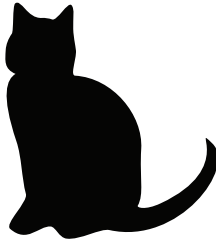
# Bat Colouring Page



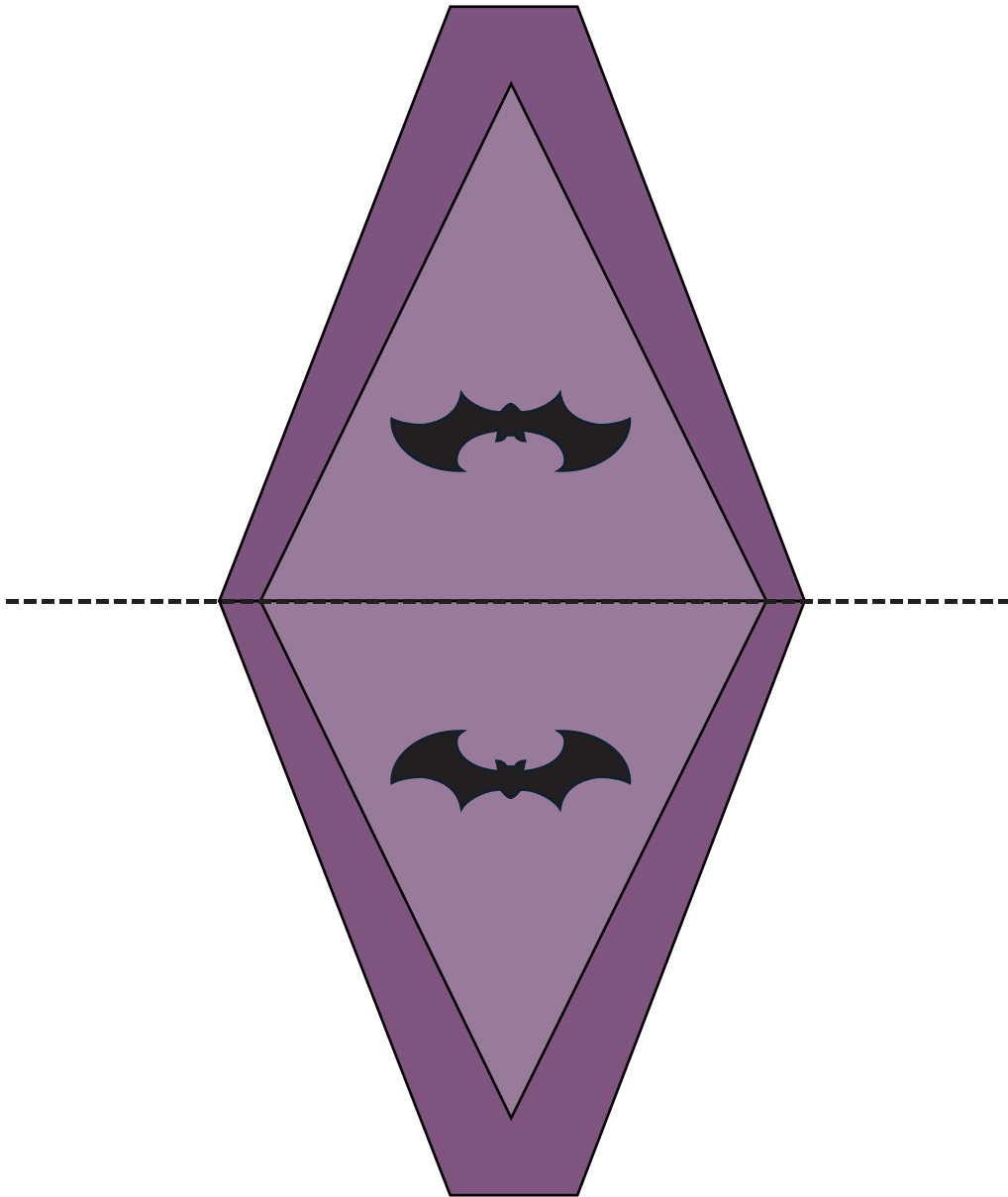
# Bingo Card



**Free**



# Batty Banner



# Sweet Spooky Treats!

With Halloween just around the corner and fall already at the door, it's the perfect time to head out to the local pumpkin patch to nab the biggest Halloween pumpkin you can find. Some local farms will also offer hayrides, petting zoos, corn mazes and more so you can make a whole day of it! After you carve 'er up, creating the spookiest Jack o' Lantern on the street, why not create a snack the whole family can enjoy?

Roasted pumpkin seeds are easy to make and high in fibre! After you've rinsed off the pumpkin seeds in cold water and separated them from the pulp, you're ready to start roasting!

## Roasted Pumpkin Seeds

1. Spray a baking sheet with non-stick cooking spray and place the seeds in a single layer on the sheet.
2. Sprinkle the seeds with salt and bake at 325 degrees F for 25 minutes or until toasted – stirring the seeds after the first ten minutes.
3. Allow the seeds to cool. Keep in an air-tight container.

## Fun Pumpkin Facts:

- The pumpkin is a member of the Cucurbitaceae family, which also includes cucumbers and melons.
- Pumpkins are believed to be native to North America — pumpkin-related seeds dating from between 7000 and 5000 B.C.E have been found in Mexico.
- The fastest pumpkin carving time of 24.03 seconds was set in 2006 by Stephen Clarke.
- The world record for the largest pumpkin is 1689 pounds.
- In Canada, the Hoary Squash Bee is a common pollinator of pumpkins and squash — the males often sleep in the flowers at night!



# Batty Fundraiser

First Name:	Last Name:
Postal Code:	Phone Number:

Donation Information: This Form is for tracking donations only. Please make cheques payable to The Canadian Wildlife Federation. Please print clearly. Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$15.00 or more (full mailing address is required).

ADDRESS	PHONE NO.	EMAIL	DONATION
Charitable Registration# 10686 8755 RRO001			

Privacy statement: The information you have provided to us will be used to process your donation and to provide you with a tax receipt.

Cash or Cheque Collected (Check for yes). From time to time, we may use your contact information to keep you informed of other activities, events and/or fundraising opportunities in support of the Federation.

Yes, I would like to receive more information about CWF initiatives, activities, and wildlife updates.

# Batty Fundraiser

Thank you for celebrating with your friends and family and generously donating your gifts to support Canadian wildlife.

As the host of the party, you're tasked with sending in the donations you've raised to the Canadian Wildlife Federation through any of the methods listed below.

If you have decided to mail in your donations, please attach your donation form shown on page five of the guide. If you or your guests have opted to donate online, visit [CanadianWildlifeFederation.co/donate](http://CanadianWildlifeFederation.co/donate).

Thank you again for your support this holiday season.

**Name:**

**Location:**

**Date:**

**Amount:**

Here are a few easy ways to send in the funds:

1. Online ([CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca/donate](http://CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca/donate))
2. Phone -877-599-5777
3. Mail in cheque or money order to "Holiday Party Fundraiser",  
c/o Canadian Wildlife Federation, 350 Michael Cowpland Drive, Kanata, ON K2M  
2W1. Tax receipts will be automatically issued for gifts of \$15 or more.



## BAT PUMPKIN CARVING TEMPLATE



### INSTRUCTIONS

Try carving this pattern with a knife that has a keyhole saw blade, these are available at most craft stores.

1. Print this pattern and tape or pin it to your pumpkin
2. Use an awl or pen to poke holes along the black edge of the shape
3. Remove the paper, and using a knife, cut along the small holes you made.

