

# ALBERTA BATS

## ALBERTA BAT SPECIES

There are nine species of bats found in Alberta, but often only Little Brown and Big Brown bats are noticed due to their large colonies. Other bat species roost in colonies, but with less than hundreds of individuals.

### Little Brown Bat *Myotis lucifugus*



The most common bat in Alberta. Roosts in colonies in buildings or bat roosting boxes. Secure in Alberta, but endangered in Canada due to white nose syndrome and habitat loss.

### Big Brown Bat *Eptesicus fuscus*



Widely distributed throughout North America, most common in southern Alberta. Roosts in colonies in buildings or bat roosting boxes. Feeds on mainly small beetles.

### Northern Bat *Myotis septentrionalis*



Found in the boreal regions of Alberta. Usually roost alone but sometimes breed in smaller colonies. Catch insects off trees and leaves. Secure in Alberta, but Endangered in Canada due to white nose syndrome and habitat loss.

### Long-legged Bat *Myotis volans*



Similar in size to the Little Brown bat, they are found in the foothills, rocky mountains, and throughout southern Alberta. They have been found roosting in buildings, rocky cliff faces, and in trees.

## BATS FACTS

Despite their reputation, bats are nothing to be scared of—they play many important roles in ecosystems around the world.

- Bats in Alberta are insectivores, meaning they only eat insects.
- They control night-flying insects and other pests, which protects agricultural crops.
- They pollinate plants and crops to produce food and maintain natural areas.
- Bats hang upside down in order to drop into flight and let gravity help them, rather than fighting gravity to lift off.
- Bats aren't blind. They can see with their eyes in the day, but use echolocation at night to locate prey and navigate their surroundings through high frequency sounds.

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## SOLITARY BATS

Not all bats roost in colonies, some roost in trees on their own or in small groups.



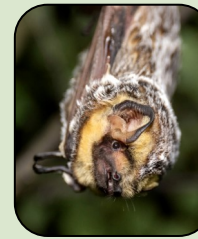
Long-eared Bat  
*Myotis evotis*

Western Small-footed Bat  
*Myotis ciliolabrum*



Silver-haired Bat  
*Lasionycteris noctivagans*

Hoary Bat  
*Lasiurus cinereus*



Eastern Red Bat  
*Lasiurus borealis*

**Mighty flyers**  
These species migrate to warmer climates rather than hibernate in Alberta.

## YOU CAN HELP BATS

- Build a bat house to provide roost sites for Little Brown or Big Brown bats
- Plant native flowers to attract insects for bats, and remove invasive plants
- Plant trees to create habitat for bats
- Support bat habitat conservation through the Edmonton and Area Land Trust
- Visit [our website](#) for more information

## BATS AND WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME

Bats in North America are under threat because of White-nose Syndrome, a fungus (*Pseudogymnoascus destructans*) that disturbs bats during hibernation and causes them to die from starvation and dehydration.

While the disease is most common in eastern North America and currently not found in Alberta, it has recently been found in the northwest United States.



Little brown bat with white-nose syndrome