



Pukaskwa  
National Park



# **BAT MONITORING PROGRAM**

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## Bats in Pukaskwa National Park

While there are more than 1000 species of bats worldwide, there are only 5 known species in Pukaskwa National Park: Big Brown Bat, Eastern Red Bat, Hoary Bat, Northern Long-Eared Bat and the endangered Little Brown Bat. Bat numbers are declining, partially due to white-nose syndrome.

### What is white-nose syndrome?

White-nose syndrome is named for fungus that often causes white fuzzy growth on the nose, wings or ears. The fungus infects bats during their winter hibernation and cause them to wake up. With no insects to eat, the bats often die before spring. The closest case of white-nose syndrome to Pukaskwa was confirmed in 2011 near Wawa, approximately 50 km east of the park boundary.

### How to help bats everywhere:

- Avoid caves, abandoned buildings and other places where bats may hibernate. If you must enter such places, follow the Canadian Wildlife Heath Cooperative decontamination protocol ([http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/wns\\_resources.php](http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/wns_resources.php)).
- Learn about bats and tell your family and friends all about what you have learned. Check out the website <https://batwatch.ca/> for bat sitings in your area.
- Participate in citizen science programs like this one!

### Pukaskwa National Park bat monitoring program:

- Help us learn more about bats in the park. Find a spot where bats might be and wait to see if any appear. Fill in the form with your observations.
- If you find a dead bat in the park, do not touch it. Report it to Parks Canada staff right away. Your information could help to track and prevent the spread of white-nose syndrome.

### Submit your observations:

Drop off your completed form at the Kiosk, email a photo of it to [pc.pukaskwaont.pc@canada.ca](mailto:pc.pukaskwaont.pc@canada.ca) or post on the iNaturalist app.

**iNaturalist.org**

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Bats are not blind. They can see quite well, and are the primary predators of night flying insects. A single bat can eat three times its body weight in insects every night!



# Bat monitoring program



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Personal information	
Name:	
Email:	
Phone Number:	
Your observations	
Date:	
Time:	
Location:	
Description of bat & species, if known: (i.e. size, colour)	
Number of bats observed:	
Activity observed: (i.e. sleeping, eating, flying)	
Any signs of white-nose syndrome? (i.e. white, fuzzy appearance on the nose, wings & ears.)	
Time spent observing:	
Extra notes:	

*The form above can also be used if you have found any dead bats or if you looked but didn't see any bats. Please notify park staff immediately if you find a dead bat.*



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**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Bats use echolocation to navigate. They create high frequency sounds through their nose and throat. Most calls cannot be heard by the human ear. However, sometimes humans can hear the lower frequency calls.

Park staff member setting up a bat microphone to monitor bat populations in Pukaskwa National Park.

### Search tips:

- The best time of day to spot bats is at dusk.
- During the evening and night, lights attract lots of insects. Anywhere that has a lot of insects will likely have bats hunting nearby.
- Bats are often spotted near water. Hattie Cove near the Visitor Centre is a great place to watch for bats.
- It is best to conduct counts on warm nights with little wind.

**For more information** speak with Parks Canada staff.

### Bat identification

#### Little Brown Bat

*Myotis lucifugus*

- Glossy brown fur that is black at the base
- Small size (5 - 14 g and 60 - 100 mm from head to tail)
- Ears are pointed
- Eats most flying insects
- Listed as endangered in Canada



Little Brown Bat  
<https://batwatch.ca/>

## Bat identification

### Northern Long-Eared Bat

*Myotis septentrionalis*

- Fur is medium to dark brown
- Small sized (5 – 8 g and 75 – 90 mm from head to tail)
- Long ears
- Eats most flying insects
- Listed as endangered in Canada

Northern Long-Eared Bat  
© Jon Hall



Big Brown Bat  
<https://batwatch.ca/>



### Big Brown Bat

*Eptesicus fuscus*

- Fur ranges from black to blonde
- Medium sized (26 g and 130 mm from head to tail)
- Eats most flying insects but prefers beetles

### Eastern Red Bat

*Lasiurus borealis*

- Fur ranges from light orange to brick red
- Medium sized (5 – 13 g and 109 mm from head to tail)
- Eats most flying insects but prefers moths



Eastern Red Bat  
<https://batwatch.ca/>



Hoary Bat  
<https://batwatch.ca/>

### Hoary Bat

*Lasiurus cinereus*

- Fur is brown at the base, with grey/white tips and yellowish fur around the face
- Medium sized (26 g and 145 mm from head to tail)
- Ears are rounded
- Eats most flying insects