

Meet the

Bats of Indiana!

Bats [Chiroptera] are the 2nd largest order of mammals with 1400+ species worldwide!

They play key roles in global ecosystems by providing free pest control (insects); pollinating plants (agave, guava); dispersing fruit seeds (avocados, bananas); and dropping nutrients (guano) that support cave-dwelling insects & amphibians.

13 species of bats have been documented throughout our state; only 11 remain.

All bats in Indiana are considered microbats [Microchiroptera] and share the following characteristics: insectivores, nocturnal, use of echolocation, use of forests, long tails, small eyes, plain noses (no nose leaf), and their ears possess a tragus. As one of North America's most endangered fauna, they also share the following threats:

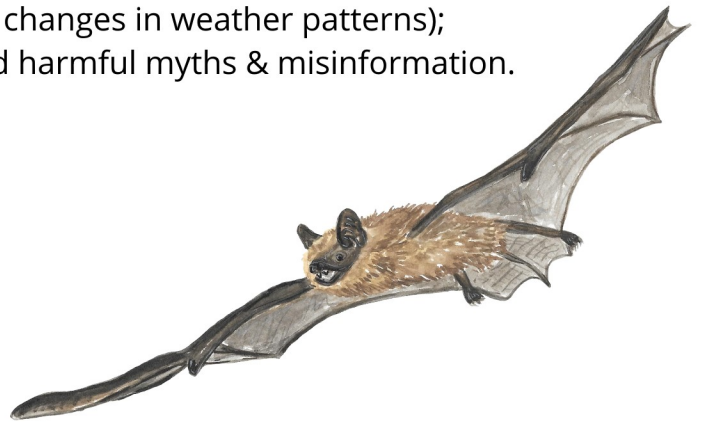
White-nose Syndrome (WNS); habitat loss (deforestation, fragmentation); climate change (severe & frequent changes in weather patterns); pollutants (pesticides & herbicides); and harmful myths & misinformation.

BIG BROWN BAT

(Eptesicus fuscus)

Status:

The big brown bat is known to live up to 20 years and may be found roosting in our attics.



EASTERN RED BAT

(Lasiurus borealis)

Status: State Special Concern

Eastern red bats have bright orange-red-brown fur, including their tails. They'll migrate south for winter.



EASTERN SMALL-FOOTED BAT

(Myotis leibii)

Status: State Special Concern

This species was first recorded in southern Indiana in 2009.

They can be identified by a black mask and long tail.



EVENING BAT

(Nycticeius humeralis)

Status: State Endangered

Evening bats roost in our oak-hickory forests during the summer before migrating south for winter. They can be identified by having black ears, 2 upper incisors, & strong odor.



GRAY BAT

(Myotis grisescens)

Status: State Endangered; Federally Endangered
Gray bats are found in the caves of southern Indiana. They can be identified by their short, gray fur. This species may live up to 15 years in the wild.



HOARY BAT

(Lasiurus cinereus)

Status: State Special Concern
Hoary bats are very large, reaching 5-6" from head-to-tail with a 17" wingspan. They're known to only live 2 years.



INDIANA BAT

(Myotis sodalis)

Status: State Endangered; Federally Endangered
Indiana bats live in our oak-hickory forests during warm seasons, and spend winter in our caves. This small bat can be identified by its short toe hairs.



LITTLE BROWN BAT

(Myotis lucifugus)

Status: State Endangered
Little brown bats are the smallest of our local bats, measuring as small as 2½ inches from head-to-tail. They can be identified by observing their extra long toe hairs and dark wings. This species lives about 6-10 years.



NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT

(Myotis septentrionalis)

Status: State Endangered; Federally Threatened
Northern long-eared bats are known for their large ears, with a very long & slender tragus. These bats may be found roosting under bridges.



RAFINESQUE'S BIG EARED BAT

(Corynorhinus rafinesquii)

Status: State Special Concern
EXTIRPATED; species last recorded in 1962.
This species was known for having huge ears, long toe hairs, and large nose glands.



SILVER-HAIRED BAT

(Lasionycteris noctivagans)

Status: State Special Concern
Silver-haired bats are completely furred, having black or dark brown fur with silver/white frosted tips. They'll live around 5-10 years.



SOUTHEASTERN BAT

(Myotis austroriparius)

Status: State Special Concern
EXTIRPATED; species last recorded in 1977.
Southeastern bats were found in Southern Indiana. They were known to have long toe hairs and gray/black wings.



TRI-COLORED BAT

(Perimyotis subflavus)

Status: State Endangered
The tri-colored bat has fur that can be brown, tan, and orange. This species can also be identified by its pink forearms and black wings. They'll live about 4-8 years.

