

Tri-colored Bat

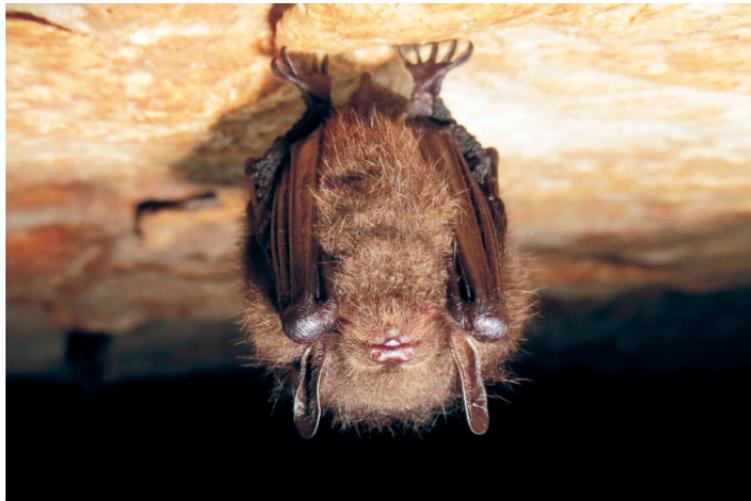
Perimyotis subflavus

STATUS

Endangered



Endangered



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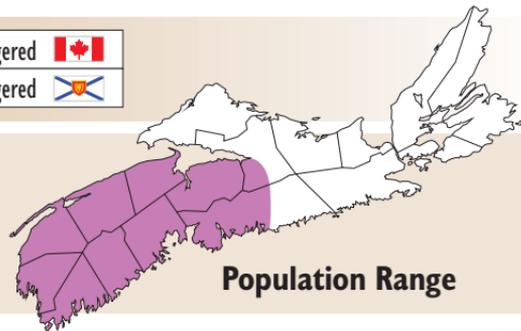
Species Description

The Tri-colored Bat is small (7-9 cm long) with a wingspan of 22-25 cm. As its name suggests, its fur is comprised of three brownish hues that are dark brown at the base, light brown in the middle and a yellowish brown at the tip. Its wing membranes are dark brown. Its tragus (a prominence in front of the ear) is short and rounded (see page 8). Formerly known as the Eastern Pipistrelle Bat.



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(BY PAUL GERAGHTY)

The Tri-colored Bat occurs throughout southwest NS. Its population has declined by over 75% since 2011.



Population Range

Habitat

During the summer, the Tri-colored Bat roosts in large clumps of the lichen Old Man's Beard (*Usnea* spp.). This behaviour has not been observed outside of Nova Scotia. Females roost in small colonies (around 12 bats) and males are typically solitary. They forage for aquatic insects over the water in forested or edge habitats. They overwinter in Nova Scotia in cold and humid caves or abandoned mines.



© LESLEY FARROW (FIRST TWO)

Typical foraging habitat



Female colony roosting



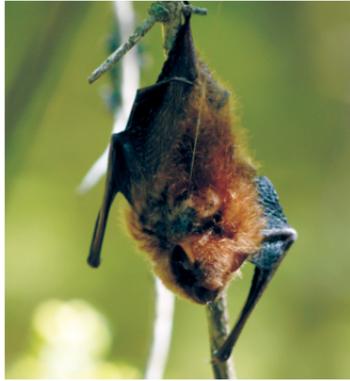
© ALAIN BELIVEAU

Usnea lichen

Tri-colored Bats forage at dusk over open water. They are the least common of the three non-migratory bats in Nova Scotia.

Interesting Points

- Bats in NS can travel up to 500 km to return to overwintering sites.
- Females give birth to pups that weigh 1/4 to 1/3 of their total weight!
- Some bat species can live up to 30 years, and usually have 1-2 young/year.
- Each bat species has a unique high pitched echolocation call.
- Researchers can determine a bat species presence in an area by setting out ultrasonic detectors.



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WWW.BATCONSERVATION.CA

White-nose Syndrome is devastating bat populations, and has been expanding by 200-250 km/year. At this rate, all non-migratory bats in Canada could be affected within 12-18 years. In 2013, NS DNR and MTRI partnered together to launch a Bat Conservation website in an effort to learn more about how White-nosed Syndrome is impacting bats. They requested historical and current bat sighting records from the public and the response was overwhelming. To date, over 2000 records have been submitted. This information would have been impossible to collect without the support of Nova Scotians. Please continue to share your historic and current bat records each year!



Easily report your sightings online



Bat records submitted in 2013

© MTRI

Similar Species

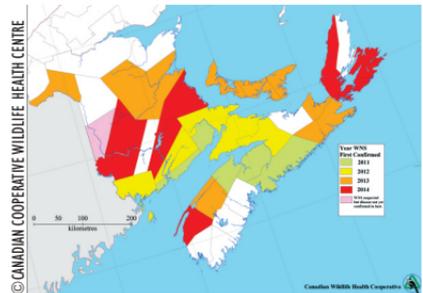
Refer to pages 8 and 10.

Threats to Survival

- The most significant threat is White-nose Syndrome, a disease caused by the invasive fungus *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*. Hibernating bats with this fungus rouse early and die of starvation and dehydration.
- Other threats include colony eradication, chemical contamination, changes in forest structure and wind turbines.

How You Can Help

Report current and historical bat sightings! Get involved with monitoring efforts. Avoid entering possible hibernacula sites to prevent human-caused stress on hibernating bats and spread of the fungus. Install bat boxes on your property. Dispel negative myths about bats and spread the word on how to help.



Maritime White-nosed Syndrome range (2014). Each colour indicates the first year detected.



Bat roost box

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Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

Contact: NS Department of Natural Resources (902) 679-6091

Info: Bat Conservation International: www.batcon.org; whitenosesyndrome.org

Sighting Reports: Summer: www.batconservation.ca Winter: DNR (902) 679-6091

Stewardship: www.batconservation.ca