

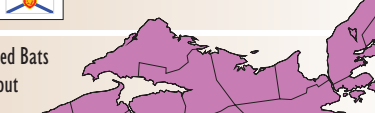


Lasiurus borealis



Threatened 
 Endangered 

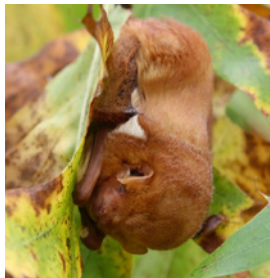
Eastern Red Bats
 throughout



Population Range

Eastern Red Bats are typically solitary and roost in treed areas, hanging upside down from branches within leaves. They forage for insects in wetlands and forested areas, as well as along rivers, lakes, and the open areas along forest edges. They take part in an annual seasonal migration, spending the summer in Nova Scotia and areas further north to breed before moving southward into the US and Mexico during the fall.

The Eastern Red Bat is a colourful medium-sized migratory bat (9-12 cm long) with a wingspan of 28 to 33 cm. Its fur ranges from reddish-orange to yellowish-grey; males are often more vibrant in colour than females. The tips of its fur are white, giving it a slightly frosted appearance. It has two-toned wings, with dark black membranes that contrast with the light-coloured skin on the arms and fingers as well as the face. It has rounded, short, partially furred ears.



Roosting habitat



Foraging habitat



Roosting habitat

Seen during the summer or fall months during migration or breeding. Most active at dusk and dawn while foraging.

Interesting Points

- Eastern Red Bats are one of three bat species in Canada that take part in a long-distance seasonal migration and are not threatened by the bat disease white-nose syndrome.
- Most bat species in Canada only have 1 pup per year on average; however, Eastern Red Bats typically have 2–3 pups. There is even a record of an Eastern Red Bat having quadruplets!
- Likely contributing to its larger litter sizes, the Eastern Red Bat belongs to the only bat genus in North America with two pairs of nipples (all others have one pair).
- Excellent at camouflaging, it can appear like a dead leaf or pinecone by hanging upside-down with one foot and curling its tail around itself like a blanket.

Similar Species

Refer to page 16 (Northern Myotis) to view descriptions and illustrations of the three species of migratory bats found in Nova Scotia: Hoary Bat, Eastern Red Bat, Silver-haired Bat.



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Threats to Survival

- Wind energy facilities pose a major threat to the survival of Eastern Red Bats as they are the second most common bat species to be killed by wind turbines in Canada and the U.S.
- Cumulative impacts of habitat changes, human disturbance, pollution and contaminants, decline and changes in insect populations, and mortality caused by humans and domestic cats also threaten the species' survival.

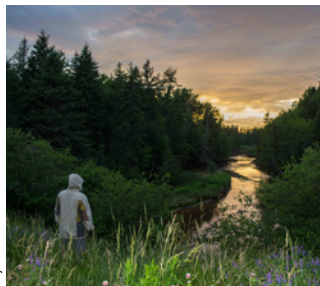


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Outdoor cat

How You Can Help

Report current and historical bat sightings. Talk to your local environmental groups to get involved with monitoring efforts. Dispel negative myths about bats and spread the word on how to help. If you see a bat, avoid disturbing them and make sure not to touch them directly. We love our cats! But free-roaming cats pose a serious threat to local wildlife, including bats. To protect both your cat and our local ecosystems, it is best to keep your cat indoors.



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Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship

Info: Bat Conservation International: www.batcon.org
Sighting Reports: MTRI: www.batconservation.ca or 1-866-727-3447 or bats@merseytobeatic.ca; NS Department of Natural Resources: biodiversity@novascotia.ca; Atlantic Canada Bat Hotline: atlanticbats@cwhe-rcsf.ca or 1-833-434-2287 (BATS)
Stewardship: bats@merseytobeatic.ca