

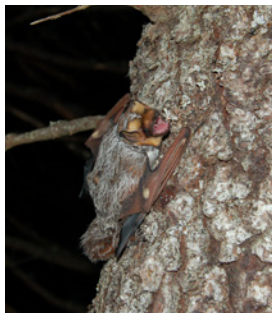
Hoary Bat

Lasiurus cinereus



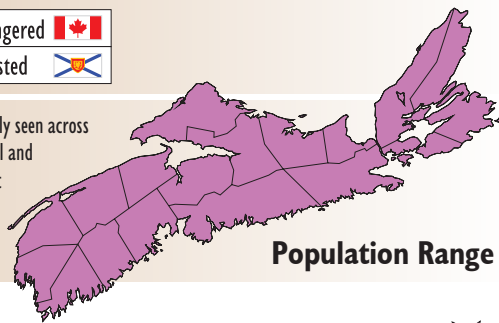
Species Description

The Hoary Bat is a large migratory bat (13-15 cm long), with a wingspan of 34 to 41 cm. It has a dramatic two-toned wing pattern and grey to cinnamon-coloured fur with white tips running along its stomach and back, reaching its furred tail. It also has distinctive light yellow-brown fur on its face and throat, contrasting with darker brown fur around the mouth and eyes. The ears are short and rounded with a well-defined black line bordering them with a short, round, wide ear bone known as the tragus.



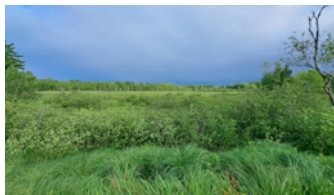
STATUS	Endangered 
	Not listed 

Hoary Bats are occasionally seen across Nova Scotia during the fall and summer, although it is not their primary summer range, which is currently unknown.



Habitat

Hoary Bats roost alone in trees with lots of overhead leafy cover and adequate open space below for flight. Females use large diameter and tall trees that reach or exceed the height of the surrounding canopy for maternity roosts. During the summer they have 1-2 pups. The pups cling to their mother during the day and are left at their roost trees while the mother forages for insects in the evening. They forage in open habitats including wetlands, fields, and areas with sparsely distributed trees.



Foraging habitat



Roosting habitat

May be observed along Nova Scotia's coast during the fall as it migrates southward, or throughout the province during summer. Most active at dusk and dawn while foraging.

Interesting Points

- The Hoary Bat is the largest species of bat found in Canada, weighing on average 28 grams, which is slightly heavier than an AA battery (24 g).
- It favours moths in its diet, which helps to protect forests and crops from damage caused by certain moth species.
- The word “hoary” means “grayish white”, the perfect description for the white tinge on their grey-brown hairs.
- It can choose to avoid eavesdropping from other bats by producing quiet echolocations known as “micro calls”.
- All three species of migratory bats are believed to migrate over open water and have been documented on Sable Island National Park Reserve.



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Similar Species

Refer to page 16 to view descriptions and illustrations of the three species of migratory bats found in Nova Scotia: Hoary Bat, Eastern Red Bat, Silver-haired Bat; and to page 13 to view a full description of the Little Brown Myotis.

The Hoary Bat is much larger than its hibernating counterpart, the Little Brown Myotis (6-10 cm). They are further distinguishable at a glance by the clear differences in fur colouration, with the white-tipped fur of the Hoary Bat contrasting with the overall dark brown fur of the Little Brown Myotis.



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Specimens of Hoary Bat (right) compared to Little Brown Myotis (left).

Threats to Survival

- Wind energy facilities pose a major threat to the survival of Hoary Bats, as more Hoary Bats are killed by wind turbines in Canada and the U.S. than any other bat species.
- 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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Underneath of wing



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Bat monitoring

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.

Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship

Info: Bat Conservation International: www.batcon.org

Sighting Reports: MTRI: www.batconservation.ca or 1-866-727-3447 or bats@merseytobeatric.ca; NS Department of Natural Resources: biodiversity@novascotia.ca; Atlantic Canada Bat Hotline: atlanticbats@cwbc-rscf.ca or 1-833-434-2287 (BATS)

Stewardship: bats@merseytobeatric.ca