

Lasionycteris noctivagans



The Silver-haired Bat is a medium-sized migratory bat (9-11 cm long), with a wingspan of 20 to 35 cm. Its fur ranges in colour from black to dark brown, with silver tips that give the species its signature silvery appearance. The skin on its wings and ears is primarily black, with a contrasting light-coloured area on the front edge of its ears. It has a short, broad nose.



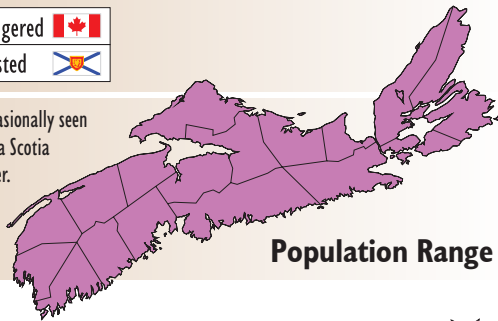
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STATUS	Endangered 
	Not listed 

Silver-haired Bats are occasionally seen throughout mainland Nova Scotia during the fall and summer. Acoustic recordings also indicate its presence on Cape Breton Island.



Habitat

Silver-haired Bats roost in tree cavities and under the peeling bark of relatively large, decaying deciduous or coniferous trees. They forage in forest openings, intact forests, and along forest edges. Typically, Silver-haired Bats have 1-2 young per year and often form small maternity colonies, unlike Eastern Red Bats and Hoary Bats which are solitary roosters.



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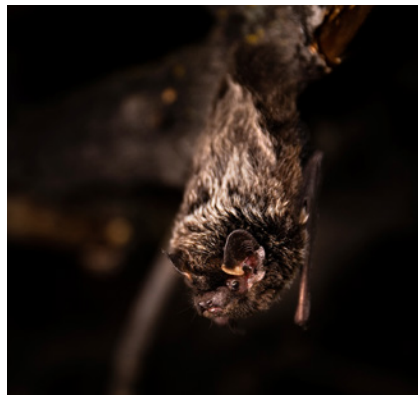
Foraging habitat

Roosts under peeling bark

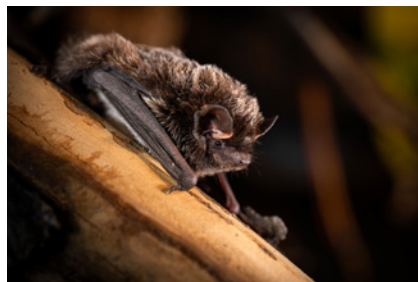
Most likely to be observed during the summer months and in the fall preceding their migration to overwintering grounds. Most active at dusk and dawn while foraging.

Interesting Points

- Its echolocation calls are so similar to those of Big Brown Bats that it is often difficult for researchers to tell them apart on acoustic recordings.
- This species does not typically roost in human-made structures such as attics, barns, or eaves.
- It has occasionally been documented spending the winter in Canada.
- This species sings and produces a song with 3 syllable types called a lead, droplet and chirp.
- Silver-haired Bats are the only species of the genus *Lasionycteris*, and its scientific name—derived from Greek and Latin—roughly translates to “hairy wandering night bat.”



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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.

Threats to Survival

- Wind energy facilities pose a major threat to the survival of Silver-haired Bats; which are behind only Hoary Bats and Eastern Red Bats in terms of numbers killed by wind turbines in Canada.
- 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.

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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A major threat to migratory bats



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Bat acoustic monitoring device

Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

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@cwbc-rcsf.ca or 1-833-434-2287 (BATS)

Stewardship: bats@merseytobeatic.ca