

NORTH DAKOTA BATS

WHO THEY ARE AND WHY WE NEED THEM

MEET THE ND BATS

Common North Dakota Bats



Little Brown Bat



Big Brown Bat



Hoary Bat



Eastern Red Bat



Silver Haired Bat

Rarer North Dakota Bats



Townsend's Big-eared Bat



Fringed Bat



Western small-footed



Northern Long-eared Bat



Long-legged Bat



Long-eared Bat

BATS ARE AMAZING CRITTERS

Pest Control

All North Dakota Bats are insectivores, meaning they eat insects. Bats can eat up to their body weight and a half in mosquitos each night. Bats also eat crop pests and other insects that can cause harm to crops, humans and other animals. Without bats, we would be forced to use more pesticides to kill off these nasty pests that cause so much damage.

Pollinators

As bats eat insects and fly across the landscape they pick up pollen and can distribute it to other plants and locations. In some parts of the world, bats eat fruit and distribute seeds helping rebuild forests that have been subjected to deforestation and habitat loss.

BATS ARE DYING

White Nose Syndrome (WNS)

Since 2006, a mysterious fungus has been attacking bats across the U.S. killing off populations at a unprecedented rate. The fungus infects bats during hibernation, turning their noses white with fungus and causing them to wake during the winter months. When the bats wake during winter, the lack of food results in starvation and death. This year White Nose Syndrome made it to North Dakota.



Photo Credit: <https://wildlife.org/>

Habitat Destruction

Unfortunately, as human populations expand and move into wildlife habitat, we destroy roost sites and food resources that are critical for bat survival. The destruction of their natural habitat results in many bat species becoming threatened or endangered. In 2015, the Northern long-eared bat became the first bat in North Dakota to be placed on the threatened species list.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Knowledge is Power

The easiest way to help out bats is to let others know how important they are to North Dakota and the World. Never try and harm a bat or pick one up. Bats are wildlife and scared in the presence of humans, they will bite. Lastly, if you don't mind the mosquito eaters in your backyard, do something to create habitat for them. Bats love bat houses and use them to raise their young (pups). Bat houses are easy to make and provide a safe place for bats to reside.



Photo Credit: Mandy Guinn

Local bat house full of mother bats and new born pups