



Bat Week

October 24—31, 2017

Bats are the second largest order of mammals on the planet by species, second to rodents. They are the only mammals to have developed true flight and this has allowed them to occupy various habitats worldwide. They are important to pollination and seed dispersal. Bats also contribute to insect population control by eating a variety of insects (including mosquitos) and help reduce the need for pesticides.

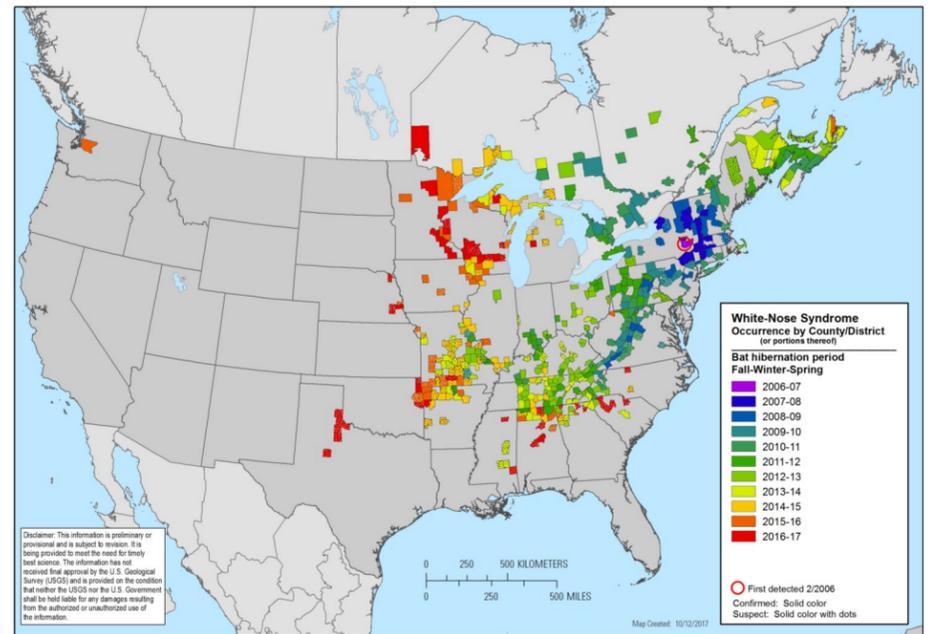


There are 32 bat species known to occur in Texas. Ten of these species have been observed in the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex (*). Visit [ECOS](#), [FWS](#), or [TPWD](#) for more information on these species

- Big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*) *
- Big free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops macrotis*)
- Mexican (Brazilian) free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) *
- California myotis (*Myotis californicus*)
- Cave myotis (*Myotis velifer*) *
- American perimyotis (aka Tri-colored bat; formerly Eastern pipistrelle) (*Perimyotis subflavus*) *
- Eastern red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*) *
- Evening bat (*Nycticeius humeralis*) *
- Fringed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*)
- Ghost-faced bat (*Mormoops megalophylla*)
- Hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*) *
- Long-legged myotis (*Myotis volans*)
- Mexican long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris nivalis*)
- Mexican long-tongued bat (*Choeronycteris mexicana*)
- Northern long-eared myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*)
- Northern yellow bat (*Lasiurus intermedius*)
- Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*)
- Pocketed free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops femorosaccus*)
- Rafinesque's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus rafinesquii*)
- Seminole bat (*Lasiurus seminolus*) *
- Silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*) *
- Southeastern myotis (*Myotis austroriparius*)
- Southern yellow bat (*Lasiurus ega*)
- Southwestern little brown myotis (aka Arizona myotis) (*Myotis occultus*)
- Spotted bat (*Euderma maculatum*)
- Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)
- Western mastiff bat (aka Greater bonneted bat) (*Eumops perotis*)
- American parastrelle (aka Canyon bat; formerly Western pipistrelle) (*Parastrellus hesperus*)
- Western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii*)
- Western small-footed myotis (*Myotis ciliolabrum*)
- Western yellow bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*)
- Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*) *

Source: Ammerman, L. K., C. L. Hice, and D. J. Schmidly. Bats of Texas. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, 2012.

White-nose syndrome is a disease that affects hibernating bats throughout the United States and was recently detected in Texas. For more information on this disease and how its affecting bat populations across the United States, visit www.whitenosesyndrome.org or click the FWS fact sheet below.



Citation: White-nose syndrome occurrence map - by year (2017). Data Last Updated: 10/12/2017. Available at: <https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/resources/map>.

White-Nose Syndrome

The devastating disease of hibernating bats in North America
April 2017

What is white-nose syndrome?
White-nose syndrome (WNS) is a disease affecting hibernating bats. Named for a white fungus that appears on the mounds and other parts of bats, WNS is associated with extensive mortality of these animals in winter and mid-winter North America. First documented in New York in the winter of 2006-2007, WNS has spread rapidly across the eastern and midwestern United States and eastern Canada, and has been confirmed as far west as the state of Washington.

What bats are being affected?
More than half of the 47 bat species living in the United States laboratory to survive the winter. Eight cave-hibernating bats, including two endangered and one threatened federally listed species, have been confirmed with WNS. The fungus has been detected on an additional 14 species, including one endangered 14 species, with no confirmation of disease.

Species confirmed with WNS:

- Big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*)
- Eastern small-footed bat (*Myotis leibii*)
- Gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*)
- Indiana bat (*Myotis sodale*)
- Long-legged myotis (*Myotis volans*)
- Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)
- Southeastern myotis (*Myotis austroriparius*)
- Tri-colored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*)

Federally listed species found in the affected area that have not yet been confirmed with WNS or fungal infection:

- Dark big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)
- Indiana myotis (*Myotis grisescens*)
- Little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*)
- Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)
- Southeastern myotis (*Myotis austroriparius*)
- Tri-colored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*)

In Europe, 13 bat species have been confirmed with WNS or the fungus, but there has been no mortality associated with these observations.

Where is it now?
White-nose syndrome has continued to spread rapidly. As of April 2017, bats with WNS were confirmed in 31 states:

- Alabama
- Arkansas
- California
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Florida
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kentucky
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin

What have we learned?
Biologists in New York and Vermont have found up to 60 percent of marked little brown bats at a few sites since surviving from one winter to the next in recent years, giving some hope that this species might one day be able to recover. Little brown bat populations at these sites remain at less than 10 percent of their pre-WNS population.

What is being done?
Partnerships
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service leads an extensive network of state and federal agencies, tribes, organizations, institutions and individuals in working cooperatively to investigate the causes, spread and control of bat deaths associated with WNS and develop management tools and strategies to minimize the impact of the disease.

WNS National Plan
In 2011, the Service and a team of federal and state agencies and tribes prepared a national white-nose syndrome response plan to address the threat to hibernating bats. The plan is a framework for coordinating and managing the national investigation and response to WNS. The National Plan for Assisting States, Federal Agencies, and Tribes in Managing White-Nose Syndrome in Bats outlines actions necessary for federal and tribal coordination, and provides an overall strategy for investigating ways to manage WNS and conserve bats.

Research Funding
From 2008 to 2016 the Service has allocated \$36 million to meet high priority needs for research and field support. This includes more than \$27 million in grants to other federal agencies, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations and state natural resource agencies.

Federal Relay Service for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
1 800 877 8339
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800 844 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

To learn more about Bat Conservation International and their worldwide efforts to conserve bats and their ecosystems, visit: www.batcon.org. Here you can find a Bat Week 2017 [Tool Kit](#) full of fun activities and resources!



Click [here](#) to learn the *real story* about **bats and rabies**, from Bat Conservation International!

Explore Bat Watching Sites in Texas



For a fun bat project, check out how to construct a bat box.

