

# Little Brown Myotis

*Myotis lucifugus*

<b>STATUS</b>	Endangered 	Not Listed 
Endangered 	Endangered 	Not Listed 



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## Species Description

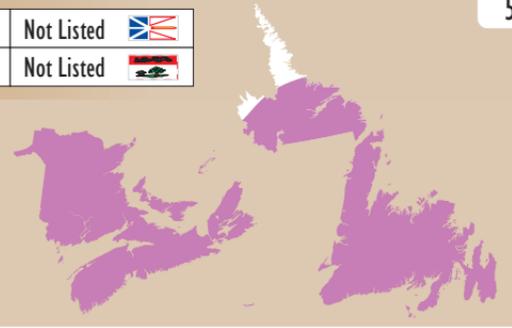
The Little Brown Myotis is a small bat (6-10 cm long) with a wingspan of 22-27 cm. It generally has brown fur along the face and back and lighter brown/grey fur under its chin and belly, though colouration can vary between individuals. Its wing membranes are dark brown and its facial skin are brown. Its tragus (a prominence in front of the ear) is blunt and rounded (see page 6) and its ears are black and small. Also known as the Little Brown Bat.



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The Little Brown Myotis occurs throughout most of Atlantic Canada. Its known hibernating population has severely declined (over 90%) in recent years.



## Habitat

During the summer, the Little Brown Myotis forages over water, along forested edges and in fields for flying insects. It roosts during the day in buildings (attics, barns), eaves of houses, woodpiles, under bark and in tree cavities. Females roost together in maternity colonies where they give birth and raise young (pups), while males are mostly solitary. Overwinters in Atlantic Canada by hibernating in cold and humid caves or abandoned mines.



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Overwintering cave

Little Brown Myotis bats are most active at dusk and night when they are foraging for insects, commonly in areas adjacent to water.

## Interesting Points

- Little Brown Myotis bats are thought to be the most common bat in Canada, and occur in all provinces and territories.
- Bats play an ecologically important role by feeding on insects that are often considered agricultural or forest pests.
- White-nose Syndrome was first observed in 2006 in New York and in Canada in 2010. Since then millions of bats have died from this disease.



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## Similar Species

Bat identification is difficult. The most common method used to distinguish the three species below is by studying the tragus (prominence in front of the ear). There are three additional species of migratory tree bats in Atlantic Canada but they are larger and not very similar looking (refer to page 8). Slight differences between the three species below includes:

### Little Brown Myotis:

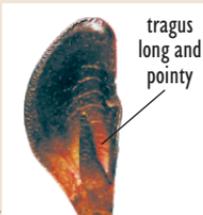
Shorter ears, hairy toes.



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### Northern Myotis:

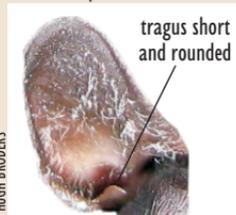
Longer ears, toes not hairy.



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### Tri-colored Bat:

Shorter ears, slightly different colouration, forearms sometimes pinkish.



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## Threats to Survival

- The most significant threat is White-nose Syndrome, a disease caused by the exotic fungus *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*. Hibernating bats with this fungus rouse early and die of starvation and dehydration.
- Other threats include colony eradication, chemical contamination, changes in forest structure and wind turbines.



© MARK ELDERKIN

Bat out of hibernation and flying on a winter day

## How You Can Help

Report current and historical bat sightings! Get involved with monitoring efforts. Avoid entering possible hibernacula sites to prevent human-caused stress on hibernating bats and spread of the fungus. Install bat boxes on your property. Dispel negative myths about bats and spread the word on how to help.



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Radio-tracking bats for research

## Contacts, Information & Sighting Reports

**Other Contacts:** Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre at (902) 628-4314

**Info:** Bat Conservation International: [www.batcon.org](http://www.batcon.org); [whitenosesyndrome.org](http://whitenosesyndrome.org)

**Sighting Reports:** [www.batconservation.ca](http://www.batconservation.ca)

**Stewardship:** [www.batconservation.ca](http://www.batconservation.ca)