

# Northern Myotis

*Myotis septentrionalis*

**STATUS**

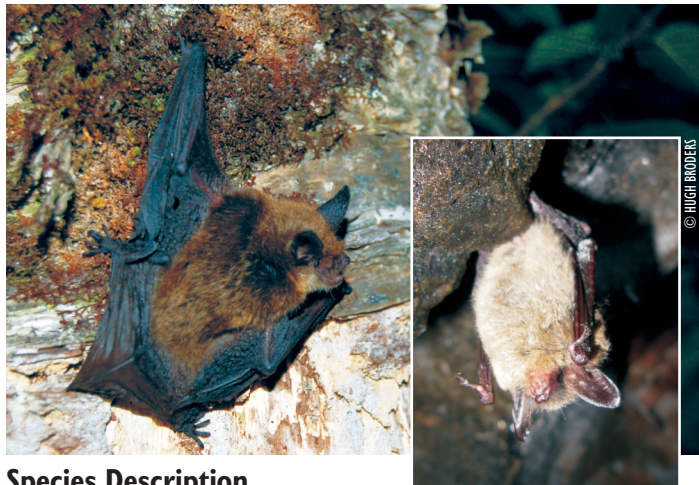
Endangered



Endangered



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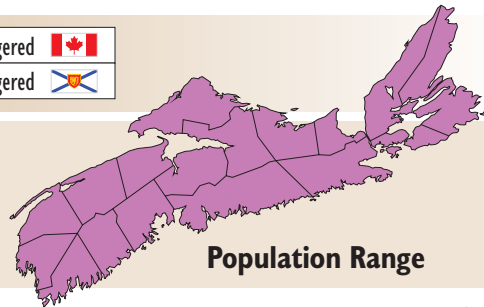


## Species Description

The Northern Myotis is a small bat (6-8 cm long) with a wingspan of 23-26 cm. It has brown fur along the face and back and lighter brown/grey fur under the chin and belly. Its wing membranes are dark brown and its facial skin is pinkish brown. Its black ears are large and its tragus (prominence in front of the ear) is long and pointy (see page 8). Formerly known as the Northern Long-eared Bat.



The Northern Myotis occurs throughout NS. Its population has declined by over 90% since 2011.



## Habitat

During the summer, the Northern Myotis bat typically occurs in mature coniferous and deciduous forest stands with large trees containing cavities and cracks that can support female maternity colonies. Males roost alone in both deciduous and coniferous trees. They forage in forest gaps and edges. They overwinter in Nova Scotia by hibernating with other bat species in cold and humid caves or abandoned mines.



Northern Myotis are most active at dusk and at night where they forage in the forest, along forested edges, or along forest covered creeks.

## Interesting Points

- Northern Myotis bats frequently move among a network of large, mature roost trees and require forests with large patches of suitable trees.
- All bats feed and navigate using a remarkable technique known as echolocation. Northern Myotis bats often feed by gleaning beetles and moths off vegetation in the forest.
- Females live in groups made up of maternal relatives and form social relationships that can last for years.



Bat with a radio transmitter

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Bat researcher with a tiny young bat (pup)

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## Similar Species

See page 8 for distinguishing features between the three species in this guide. There are three other bat species in Nova Scotia, which are larger, migratory, and have distinct physical differences:

### Hoary Bat:

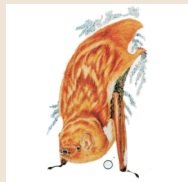
Much larger (13-15 cm long).



ILLUSTRATIONS BY PAUL GERAGHTY © CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE

### Eastern Red Bat:

Yellowish red fur, slightly larger (9-12 cm long).



### Silver-haired Bat:

Dark fur with silver tips, and slightly larger (9-11 cm long).



## Threats to Survival

- The most significant threat is White-nose Syndrome, a disease caused by the invasive 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.

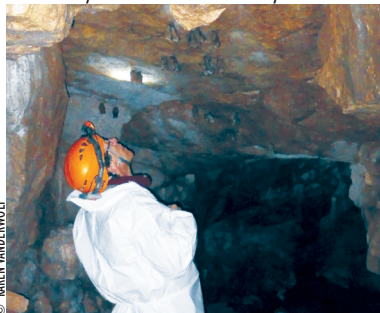


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Northern Myotis bat with White-nose Syndrome

## 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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Bat research

## Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

**Contact:** NS Department of Natural Resources (902) 679-6091

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

**Sighting Reports:** Summer: [www.batconservation.ca](http://www.batconservation.ca) Winter: DNR (902) 679-6091

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