



# Alberta Community Bat Program

[www.albertabats.ca](http://www.albertabats.ca)

Alberta is home to nine species of bats. Many of these bats live in close association with people and rely on good stewardship for their survival and successful reproduction. The Alberta Community Bat Program's mission is to raise awareness of bat conservation issues, help local residents manage bats in buildings, and to collect data needed to monitor and better understand bats in the province.

## Why help bats?

- » Important predator of nocturnal insects, including mosquitoes.
- » Control of agricultural and forestry pests worth billions of dollars annually.
- » Bats are the slowest reproducing mammal for their size. Populations slow to recover once lost.
- » Many bats depend on human structures for maternity roosts. Some building colonies can exceed 1,000 individuals.
- » Successful reproduction is critical for helping to mitigate the effect of white-nose syndrome.



Visit [www.albertabats.ca](http://www.albertabats.ca) for instructions, forms, and to submit observations.

## Get involved with bat conservation

- » Report roosts in buildings, bat houses, or natural structures.
- » Build a bat house and let us know whether it was successful.
- » Monitor your roosts one or more times annually, and report your findings to the Alberta Community Bat Program.
- » Promote bat conservation and help build bat friendly communities.
- » Be stewards of bats roosting on your property. If required, evictions or alterations to building roosts should be avoided from March to October.

## We want your bat poop!



- » The species of bats using a roost can be identified using DNA from guano samples.
- » Collect fresh guano samples in a paper envelope and send to the Alberta Community Bat Program along with a report of the bat roost.

## White-nose syndrome

- » Caused by a fungal pathogen introduced to North America.
- » First found in 2006, now in 29 states and 5 provinces.
- » Has killed millions of bats in eastern North America. Potential extirpation of hibernating bats in affected areas.
- » Recently found in Washington, making arrival in Alberta much more likely.
- » Report observations of dead bats to a Fish and Wildlife Office or contact the Alberta Community Bat Program for assistance.



## Build a bat house

- » Bat houses are used by at least three species in Alberta and can help offset the loss of naturally occurring roost structures.
- » Access to high quality roosts may increase reproductive success, and help offset new sources of mortality.
- » Larger, multi-chambered roosts offer a greater range of conditions needed by bats, and are better able to support maternity colonies.
- » Visit [www.albertabats.ca](http://www.albertabats.ca) for designs and other recommendations.



Photos: Four chamber nursery roost (left three) and two chamber rocket box (right)

For information on managing bats, or to get involved, visit our webpage

[www.albertabats.ca](http://www.albertabats.ca)

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Poster design and most photos by Cory Olson

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