

# Bats in Alberta

## Update - June 2023

### Legal status of bats in Alberta

- The little brown myotis and northern myotis are now listed as Endangered.
- Big brown bats are now listed as Non-Game animals.
- All other bat species were already listed as Non-Game animals.

### Why are two species of bats listed as Endangered?

- Across North America, millions of cave-hibernating bats have died from the disease White-Nose Syndrome, caused by a fungus that grows in caves.
- This fungus was detected in Alberta in 2022.
- It is important to protect bats and their habitat to ensure they can recover from the disease. Over 90% of bats in a cave infected by the fungus may die.

### What does this mean?

- It is illegal to harm or kill any species of bat in Alberta.
- It is illegal to enter a cave where bats are hibernating, or to alter or destroy a cave where bats are hibernating at any time of the year.
- It is illegal to molest, disturb or destroy a bat roost where female bats are raising their young.

### What does this mean for people with bats roosting in a building?

- The bat roost should not be disturbed between June 1 – September 1 when female bats are raising their pups.
- After bats leave the roost to hibernate in the fall, building owners can modify or close the roost permanently.
- If a bat roost is a health or safety concern (e.g., bats regularly getting into the living space), the building owner should contact their local Fish and Wildlife office. A wildlife biologist will submit a Letter of Authorization to allow a safe eviction of the bats. Guidance on how to conduct a safe eviction will be provided.
- If a bat is found inside the living space of a house, the bat can be captured and released. Refer to resources for guidance on how to do this safely.



Photo: Jason Headley

### Are bats important?

- Yes! Bats play a critical role in the ecosystem as the primary consumers of nocturnal insects, including farm and forest pests (e.g., spruce budworm moth) and mosquitoes.

### Resources

#### What to do if you find a bat:

[Alberta Community Bat Program – You found a bat!?](#)

[Alberta Government Bats in Alberta: what to do if you find a bat](#)

#### Bats in Buildings, including safe eviction timing and methods:

[Alberta Community Bat Program](#)

#### Resources and guidebooks:

[Alberta Community Bat Program](#)

#### Alberta Community Bat Program:

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

[info@albertabats.ca](mailto:info@albertabats.ca)

1-866-574-1706

#### Alberta Environment and Protected Areas:

<https://www.alberta.ca/environment-and-protected-areas.aspx>

[EPA.Outreach-services@gov.ab.ca](mailto:EPA.Outreach-services@gov.ab.ca)

Toll Free in AB: 310-3773

#### Find a local office:

[Fish and Wildlife Area Office – Contacts](#)

#### Alberta Health Services and Rabies Information:

Health Link – 811

(toll free throughout Canada 1-866-408-5465)

<https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Health/>

Rabies Hotline – 1-844-427-6847