WHY WE NEED BATS TO STAY IN OUR NIGHT SKY



DID YOU KNOW THESE BAT FACTS?

- Are the **only mammal capable of powered flight**.
- Have been here for more than 50 million years.
- Include over 1,400 species.
- Are among the slowest-reproducing mammals on earth for their size.
- Guano is a natural fertilizer rich in nitrogen critical for plant growth.
- Are one of nature's **most important forms of pest control.**
- Help disperse seeds and pollinate plants to ensure healthy ecosystems around the world.
- **Produce sound waves** at frequences above human hearing, called **ultrasound**.

WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT OUR BATS?

- **They eat 24 varieties of agricultural pests in Wisconsin and help to reduce the need for pesticide application.**
- They consume pests that harm humans, including 9 types of mosquitoes that carry West Nile Virus.
- Since 2014 Wisconsin hibernating bat species have been severely impacted by the fungal disease White-nose Syndrome (WNS).
  - While most Wisconsin little brown bats were initially hit hard, numbers are growing rapidly again.

BATS IN YOUR HOUSE?

- **Keep yourself and our bats safe by NEVER directly handling them!**
- Open a door or window and allow the bat to leave on its own.
- **For non-emergency reporting of summer roosts in your home, email:** dnrbats@wisconsin.gov

Resources

https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/biodiversity/Home/detail/animals/6729
https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/Bats
https://www.batcon.org/
https://www.nps.gov/articles/what-is-white-nose-syndrom
https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/
https://wiatri.net/inventory/bats/index.cfm
https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/what-do-bats-eat



WHAT ABOUT OUR LITTLE BROWN BATS?

- Are the **size of an adult human thumb**, between 2.5 – 4 inches.
- Wisconsin is the winter home to nearly half of the little brown bats in the United States.
- Are protected because **they are a threatened species in Wisconsin.**
- A single bat can consume between half and its full body weight of mosquitoes and other flying insects each night.
  - **That is around 1,000 mosquito-sized insects per hour!**
- Forages primarily over open water and along shoreline edge habitat.
- **The oldest little brown bat recorded in Wisconsin was over 32 years old!**

HOW CAN WE HELP?

- **Advocate for bats by:**
  - Sharing their benefits with your local community.
  - Correcting myths and helping others understand their behaviors.
- Watch a video on how to **build your own bat house:** https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/BatHouse.html
- **Keep your backyard bat-friendly:**
  - Plant and protect our native trees and pollinator plants.
  - **Leave dead trees and snags where safely possible.**
  - Hollow spaces and loose bark are perfect homes for bats.
  - Reduce outdoor lighting.
  - Minimize tree clearing.
  - Protect streams and wetlands.
- **Stay out of caves or mines** with bats between **October and May;** assume bats are present during this time.
  - Even quiet activities may disturb **hibernating bats.**
  - Do not transfer cave clothing or gear between states and regions to prevent spreading disease.

Report sick or dead bats:

Report Here