

D. Dagenais

Long-legged myotis, one of larger myotis species. This species can be found in most regions of BC. They form maternity roosts in rock crevices, trees, or in buildings; however few maternity roosts have been documented. Help us learn more about this bat species and other bats by reporting roosts.

Who is the South Coast Bat Conservation Society?

SCBats is an organization for bat conservation within the Greater Vancouver Area. We work from Hope up to Squamish, and within the Gulf Islands.

Our objectives are to:

1. Generate and manage baseline data.
2. Promote awareness of the ecological importance of bats.
3. Generate partnerships.
4. Provide technical and scientific advice and services to the community.

SCBats monitors bat activity to understand how different types of habitats can influence bat distribution. This improves our knowledge of bats, protect and manage bats, and create a balance between human development, bat conservation, and habitat use.

By helping bats, we help the entire environment.

Learn more about bats and bat events

Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/SouthCoastBat

Or visit the Community Bat Programs of BC website
bcbats.ca

Thank you to our working partners

FWCP Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program
BC Hydro
British Columbia Conservation Foundation
Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
metro vancouver
Beaty Biodiversity Museum
SFU
community bat programs of BC
Pacific Parklands Foundation
Supporting Metro Vancouver Regional Parks

1-855-9-BC-BATS

Bats in your neighbourhood



J. Barrett

Yuma myotis, one of Vancouver's smallest bat species.

South Coast Bat Conservation Society

SCBats: Bat research, conservation & education

By helping bats, we help the entire environment.



Western long-eared myotis, a local bat species.

The benefits of bats

Bats are often given a negative reputation and are misunderstood. These delicate creatures are virtually harmless and provide us with an indicator of an ecosystem's health due to their sensitivity to pesticides and pollution.

All Canadian bats feed exclusively on insects and arachnids. They play a very important role in the ecosystem by consuming large quantities of insects at night. Their diet includes mosquitoes, garden pests, crop pests, and forest pests. In the summer months, female bats will consume their body weight in insects each night. This is equivalent to over 1000 bugs per bat per night!

Where to find bats

Bats are found everywhere in the world except Antarctica and some remote islands. BC's diverse geography is home to 17 of the 20 bat species inhabiting Canada. There are 10 species within the Greater Vancouver region.

Bats emerge at sunset to feed throughout the night over fresh water, salt water, fields, agricultural areas, along rock edges, near lights, and within forests. Check your local park or green space for bat activity at sunset.

Bat roosts

Bat roosts are used throughout the year, day and night. These are locations where bats spend their time sleeping or feeding. The two most common types of roosts are winter hibernaculum and summer maternity roosts. Bats will use caves or abandoned mines for their winter hibernaculum from late fall to early spring. However, reports of winter roosts have been reported in homes and wood piles in southern BC.

Summer maternity roosts are used by female bats to raise their young. These can be found in caves, mines, rocks/ground crevices, trees, bridges, buildings, or man-made bat houses. In Canada maternity roosts may contain a few individual bats to well over 1000 bats.

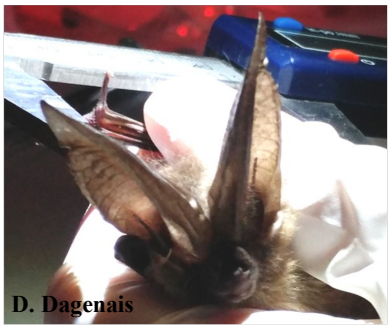
Threats to bats

Habitat loss is a major threat to bat populations worldwide. Many BC bats are at risk due to the loss of their roosting and feeding habitats, especially in urban areas.

Other serious threats include pesticides, turbines, White-nose syndrome (WNS), and cats. Pesticides ingested by females are passed on to their baby, which affects the pup's survivability. Wind turbines strikes, as well as lower pressure zones created by the blades kill 100,000s migrating bats every year.

WNS is a deadly fungus that has killed millions of hibernating bats. The fungus has no cure and is spreading across North America.

Bats use a variety of habitat for feeding and may be feeding in your backyard. Domestic cats are the #1 predator of bats.



Measuring the forearm of a Townsend's big-eared bat; a threatened species in BC due to habitat loss.



Teaching local kids about bats in their neighbourhood.

How can you help?

Help by enhancing bat habitat in your community. Install a bat house or create a bat garden. By creating bat habitat you will not only help bats but benefit from their nightly foraging activity. Please keep your cat indoors around sunset/sunrise to reduce cat attacks on bats.

Help us collect important information by reporting bat roosts, winter bat activity, and dead bats to bcbats.ca.

Did you know?

- There are over 1300 bat species worldwide. Bats play important roles as primary insect consumers, pollinators, and seed dispersers.
- Bats are the only mammal capable of flight.
- Bats can live to be 30 years old in the wild.
- Bat guano makes excellent fertilizer with NPK of 10-3-1.
- Bats have helped with the advancement of sonar, vaccines, and blood coagulates.

Bat outreach

SCBats works with local partners to provide information about bats in the area. We do many outreach programs every year. Join us for a bat presentation, night time stroll, or bat house building workshop, or book your event today.