

# Saskatchewan has 8 species of bats residing in the province.

They include:

## Little Brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*)

The little brown bat is the most common bat in Alberta, Canada and the United States. It is estimated that there are 1.5 million of these bats in Alberta. Adult little brown bats average 8.5 g (0.3 oz) and have a wingspan of only 20 cm (8 inches). Its fur colour varies from yellow or olive to blackish, with the fur on the underside lighter. The wing membranes and ears are dark brown. These bats have the greatest altitudinal range of any Canadian bat, as high as 2288 m ASL (7506 ft ASL). They tend to roost anywhere that they find appropriate - from houses to trees, to rock cavities! Females tend to congregate in nursery colonies preferring temperatures in the 30°C to 55°C range. Mating takes place in late summer or early fall, prior to hibernation. Gestation is from 50 to 60 days, and a single young is born. Newborns weigh about 1 to 1.5 grams, and they will fly in only 3 weeks! These bats are one of the longest lived mammals for it's size - up to 33 years! A disease called white nose syndrome (WNS) is wiping out entire colonies of Little Brown Bats and spreading fast. <http://cwf-fcf.org/en/do-something/challenges-projects/help-the-bats>

## Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)

### Long eared bat (*Myotis evotis*)

The long-eared bat is appropriately named! It's ears extend 5 mm past it's nose when they are gently laid forward! It's colour is extremely variable, from yellowish brown to dark brown, almost black. The wing membranes and ears are black. They weigh about 5.5 grams (0.2 oz's), but have been recorded as high as 8.6 grams (0.3 oz's). They range from grasslands to ponderosa pine forests, and as high up as 1220 m (4002 ft ASL). They roost mostly in trees, but maternity colonies are usually located in buildings, where there will be 5 to 30 individuals. These bats tend to emerge to eat from 10 to 40 minutes after dark. Their echo-location sounds are a short, high pitched sound, probably an adaptation for hunting in heavy vegetation type habitats. Moths do not easily detect these calls, and these bats will often stop calling to listen to sounds produced by its prey. Since a moth's wings will make a fluttering sound, long-eared bats with their acute hearing ability, may be able to hear the fluttering and use the sounds to find their prey! Very little is known about these bats.

## Western small-footed bat (*Myotis ciliolabrum*)

## Silver haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*)

## Red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*)

## Hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*)

The Hoary bat is the largest bat found in Canada, weighing about 35 gm (1.2 oz). They have a wingspan of about 40 cm (16 inches). Beautiful, multi-coloured fur, thick, which also covers the tail membrane. They live in areas of forest cover. During the day they may hang on branches about 4 meters above the ground. This animal is the only wild land mammal to naturally colonize the island of Hawaii! Most females deliver two pups per year.

## Big Brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*)

The big brown bat is one of the most common bats in Canada. These bats are one of the larger bats, weighing on average 15 grams (53 oz's), with a recorded high of 21.9 grams (77 oz's). Their wingspan is about 33 cm (13 inches). Fur colour ranges from pale to dark brown, with an oily texture. Flight membranes and ears are black. They seem to prefer schools, houses, barns and churches as roosting sites, making it one of the more commonly encountered bat. Big browns have a solid, heavy jaw that allows them to eat hard-shelled beetles. They seem to prefer to travel less than 80 km to locate their hibernaculum, but some have been found as far as 300 km from their summer roosts. Big brown bats are the only Alberta bats to hibernate in human buildings - not always successfully. Interestingly, there are more big brown bats in Edmonton in the winter than there are in the summer! They are hardy individuals, able to sustain temperatures as low as -10°C, but preferring temperatures in the 0°C to -4°C. They will typically lose 25% of their body weight while hibernating! They live up to 20 years. This species of bat, is widespread in North America. There are many things not understood about bats, but with this particular species, it is unknown why the eastern version of big brown bats often deliver twin pups, but the western version delivers only single pups!

# Bats (for more Bat information see our website [swf.sk.ca](http://swf.sk.ca))

## RABIES AND BITES:

There is no evidence of air-borne rabies transmission in buildings. Bats normally bite only in self-defense if handled, and aggressive behavior is rare even when bats are rabid. Bat bites are not typically felt or detected when they occur, so never handle them unless protected with gloves. Detection of bat bite marks is unreliable. Punctures are 1mm or less in diameter, and most bat inflicted scratch marks are less than 1cm long.

Call our hotline for help. (306) 242-7177

Why would I want a bat to roost at my house? A single bat can eat up to 300 mosquitoes a day!

## HOW DO I REPEL A BAT FROM ROOSTING AT MY HOUSE?

Naphthalene flakes (moth crystals) are legally registered as a bat repellent. If the bats are in a confined space such as between walls or in restricted attic areas, the odour of naphthalene flakes may discourage bat roosts. Exclusion is best done in the winter when most bat species have left. Polypropylene bird netting can be put up during the day above areas where the bats emerge, using duct tape or staples. A strip of netting at least two feet wide, hung one to four inches in front of bat exit holes, and extending at least two feet below the lowest exit point, will allow the bats to emerge, but later they will fail to find their way back. Aerosol dog and cat repellents may discourage bat use of a particular roosting spot for periods of up to several months. Suspending 2 inch wide by 7-10 inch long strips of aluminum foil or helium-filled Mylar balloons at a roost will deter bats. Entry sites can be plugged with silicon caulking, steel wool, or temporarily even with tape. All ultrasonic sound generators thus far tested by reliable bat experts have proven ineffective and some may endanger people or even attract bats. There are currently no poisons or chemicals licensed for use against bats. Cover chimneys and vents with 1/2-inch hardware cloth screens. Install draft guards below doors and seal around screen doors, windows and plumbing. Bats do not chew insulation or make new holes.

## A BAT FLEW INTO MY HOUSE

Bats will usually leave on their own if a window or door to the outside is opened while others are closed. Turn off all lights, as bats are attracted to the mosquitoes that are attracted by the lights. They can be caught in flight with a hand net (swung from behind), or when the bat lands, cover it with a coffee can, slip a piece of cardboard under the opening and release it outside. However, it's important for the volunteer to contact a bat expert to catch it rather than the public. Call our hotline (306-242-7177) for help!



## The Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Saskatchewan

website is a work in progress but please visit at [www.wrsos.org](http://www.wrsos.org). The WRSOS, established in 2006 is a volunteer driven, register non-profit organization that works in partnership with organizations and businesses throughout Saskatchewan who share common principals on the intrinsic value of maintaining healthy biodiversity.

The WRSOS' primary goal is to prevent the unnecessary removal from the wild of orphaned wildlife and to provide rescue, transportation, and qualified care of those that do need help and to ensure the return to the wild of rescued and rehabilitated wildlife.

WRSOS first line of defense is the emergency hotline. This phone line is manned 12 hours/day, 365 days/year. With the exception of one paid summer student to man the hotline, it is staffed entirely by dedicated volunteers. The hotline gives the public an avenue they can take when they find an injured or orphaned animal or when they have questions or need advise regarding wildlife issues. The dramatic increase in calls – from 177 in 2006 to almost 2000 in 2013 – only highlights the important need for an organization like WRSOS.

WRSOS has 70 volunteers and one paid summer employee on the emergency hotline. There are 20-vet clinics province wide that volunteer their services free or at a reduced rate and 20 provincially licensed wildlife rehabilitators from Moose Mountain to Meadow Lake. As an organization, WRSOS supports the view that human society and wildlife

can successfully coexist. WRSOS aims to promote respect and understanding for wildlife through education at events such as Gone Wild for Wildlife.

# **Gone Wild for Wildlife!**

A wildlife educational event for families

25 October 2014

10 am to 5 pm

PrairieLand Hall A, Saskatoon SK



Join us in helping keep Saskatchewan's wildlife wild!

Registered Charity #899049399 RR0001