

Descriptions of several of the bats found in Washington

- Western Pipistrelle
desert dwelling bats
yellow and gray to red fur,
dark faces ears, and wings,
Wing span of 8 inches
weight 3-6 grams
- Spotted Bat
desert dwelling
black with 3 large white spots
Big pink ears
- Silver-haired bats
Chocolate brown with silver frosted hair on their back and belly
Brown wings
Broad ears up to 4 inches long
Wingspan of 11 inches
Weight around 9 grams
Preferred roost is trees
- Long-eared myotis
Small plain brown bat
ears 3/4 inch long
Preferred roosts bark, Rock crevices, and hollow trees
- Hoary bats
brown and gray with white tipped hairs
cream patches on shoulders and wrists
Yellow on its throat and under side of wings
preferred roost trees

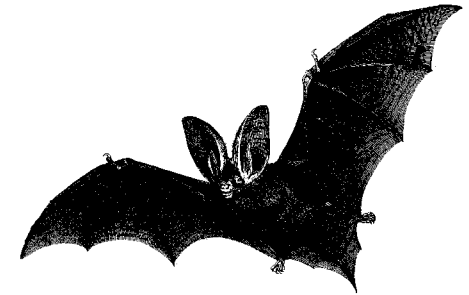
Bat watching Information

- Good places to bat watch
Parks
Old buildings
Open areas in forests
Cliffs
Caves
- Bats northwest, and Bat Conservation International provide bat watching tours and vacations
- Several State Parks are in the process of excluding bats from their buildings and providing alternative housing for them in bat boxes. This provides for some very nice bat watching areas.
For more information you can contact Washington State Parks

References

- Bat Conservation International,
<http://www.batcon.org/>
- Bats Northwest,
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- Hayes, J. P. and J. C. Gruver. 2000, Vertical stratification of bat activity in an old-growth forest in western Washington. *Northwest Science* 74:102-108.
- Hedges, N. Bat field trip Letter. 2001, Washington State Parks.
- Thomas, D. W. 1988, The distribution of bats in different ages of Douglas-fir forests. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 52: 619-626.
- Wunder, L, and A. B. Carey, 1996, Use of the forest canopy by bats. *Northwest Science* 70: 79-85.

Backyard Bats



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Washington state is home to sixteen different species of bats. Nine of these bats are considered species of concern and eight of those are Candidate Category 2. This means that they should probably be listed as endangered but that we do not have enough information about them to know for sure. This is a list of the sixteen bats that live in Washington.

- Big Brown Bat (Eptesicus fuscus)
- Western Pipistrelle (Pipistrellus hesperus)
- Silver-haired Bat (Lasionycteris noctivagans)
- Spotted Bat (Euderma maculatum)
- Townsend's Big Eared Bat (Plecotus townsendii)
- Pallid Bat (Antrozous pallidus)
- Little Brown Bat (Myotis lucifugus)
- Yuma Myotis (Myotis yumanensis)
- California Myotis (Myotis californicus)
- Keen's Myotis (Myotis keenii)
- Long Eared Myotis (Myotis evotis)
- Fringed Myotis (Myotis thysanodes)
- Small Footed Myotis (myotis ciliolabrum)
- Hoary Bat (Lasiurus cinereus)
- Long Legged Myotis (Myotis volans)



Why should I want bats on my property?

Bats Are considered a "Key Stone" animal. Many plants and animal depend on bats for their survival. Some of the useful things that bats do or give us are:

- Disperse seeds
- Pollinate plants
- Eat one third of their body weight in insects every night
- Provide bat Guano (droppings) which is a great fertilizer
- Guano also provides nutrients for other cave dwelling species.



How can I encourage bats to live on my property?

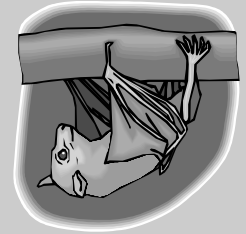
In urban areas bats will tend to live in the older neighborhoods with well established yards that provide them with plenty of insects to eat. They also prefer to have a constant water source within 200 yards of their colonies roosting site. Most bats will prefer old growth forests to younger forests but can also be found in some logged areas as well Some ways that you can promote bats on your property even if you do not live in an older established neighborhood with a water source are to:

- Provide a water source
- Create hollow trees and snags
- Protect forested areas wetlands, and save systems if any are located on your land
- Build or buy bat houses. The complexity and price the bat box you build is up to you, they range from simple and fairly cheap to very complex and expensive. Both of these sites have several different Plans for building bat boxes and have links to places that sell them.
Bats Northwest www.batsnorthwest.org/
Bat Conservation International www.batcon.org/
- Minimize pesticide use
- Grow plants that attract night flying insects such as Salvia, Silene, Phlox, Stock, Spearmint, Cornflower, Four O'clock, and Moon flower

Where do bats live?

When there is not any disturbance by humans bats live in a variety of different places. Their main roosting areas are:

- Trees
- Tree cavities
- Behind loose bark
- Rugose bark
- Cracks in wood
- Snags (dead trees)
- Caves
- Cliffs
- Rock crevices



How can I get rid of bats in my attic?

The first thing to remember is that bats in your attic are not a major threat to you or your family. If you choose to get rid of the bats you should do so after looking at the pros and cons and deciding whether or not you want the bats to stay on your property or not. If so, you should provide alternative housing for the bats such as bat boxes. You should also remember that most attic roots are maternity roosts and baby bats are not able to fly right after birth. So it is important not to try to exclude them from May though July when the babies are being born. Exclusion is best started in late august after the babies are grown and can fly. Here is one five step plan for excluding the bats from your attic.

1. Find the bats entrances to the attic
2. Buy nylon netting with holes that are 1/4 inch or less
3. During the day tack the netting down over the holes leaving the bottom hanging loose about a foot below the hole creating a one way door
4. Leave the netting up for 3 to 4 nights to ensure all the bats have left
5. Take the netting down and seal the holes with screens or caulking depending on the holes size preventing the bats from re-claiming their attic roost.