

Little Brown Bat

(*Myotis lucifugus*)



The Little Brown Bat is one of the most common bat species and is found throughout North America including Alaska. This is a colonial bat that can be found in human dwellings, but they will also roost in trees during the summer.

During the winter, the Little Brown Bat will hibernate in caves or mines. It appears at least some Little Brown Bats on Fort Drum fly to the other side of the Adirondacks to hibernate in the Champlain Valley. Little Brown Bats have experienced extensive population declines due to White-nose Syndrome.

How Can You Tell Them Apart?

Myotis or “mouse-eared” bats all look very similar and are very difficult to tell apart. They all typically have dark ears, faces, and wing membranes; glossy brown or gray fur; wingspans of 8-11 inches; and body lengths of 2-3 inches. Determining the species can usually only be done by individuals trained to handle bats. If you happen to find a bat and are interested to know what species you have, please contact Fort Drum or NYSDEC biologists.

Northern Long-eared Bat

(*Myotis septentrionalis*)



The Northern Long-eared Bat can also be found in human structures, but is more of a forest-dwelling species than other bats. It will use

loose bark, cavities, and cracks in trees for roosts during the summer. They use their large ears to echolocate or navigate through dense vegetation that other bats usually avoid. They will also use caves and mines for hibernation in the winter. The Northern Long-eared Bat has been severely impacted by White-nose Syndrome and was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 2015.

Small-footed Bat

(*Myotis leibii*)



This bat is the smallest bat species in New York State. Weighing in at less than a nickel, this colonial bat is often found roosting in rock crevices, under boulders, and in quarries in the summer. They hibernate in caves or mines in the winter. The Small-footed Bat is a Species of Special concern in New York.

Indiana Bat

(*Myotis sodalls*)



Despite being called the Indiana Bat, in 2006 there was approximately 35,000 bats, or 9% of the entire population in New York State. The number of Indiana bats has since declined due to White-nose Syndrome.

Fort Drum documented the first Indiana Bat on the installation in August 2006. This is currently the only federally endangered species on Fort Drum. These colonial bats roost under loose bark and in cracks in trees during the summer. In winter, Indiana bats hibernate in caves or mines in groups of 300-400 bats per square foot.



White-nose Syndrome

White-nose Syndrome is a disease that has killed millions of bats across eastern North America including Fort Drum and New York State. Infected bats usually have a white fungus growing around the nose, wings, and ears. Infected bats have been reported to display abnormal behaviors and movement during hibernation, which may ultimately lead to depletion of fat reserves and starvation. Humans cannot contract White-nose Syndrome.



BATS OF FORT DRUM



Natural Resources Branch
Environmental Division
Directorate of Public Works
Fort Drum, NY

315-772-4999 772-9636
www.fortdrum.lsportsman.net

Eastern Red Bat

(*Lasiurus borealis*)



The Red Bat is well-named and has distinct red hair. It is sometimes solitary and sometimes found in small

family groups. While most bats give birth to a single pup, the Red Bat can have as many as 5 pups at a time, although 3 is more typical. During the summer, this bat will roost in the foliage of deciduous trees. In the winter, they will either migrate or hibernate in hollow trees or leaf litter on the ground. Red bats are currently not known to contract White-nose Syndrome; but they are impacted by wind energy facilities as they migrate south.

Hoary Bat

(*Lasiurus cinereus*)

Hoary Bats are New York's largest bat species. Similar to the Red Bat, the Hoary Bat is solitary or found in small family groups. They also commonly



roost in the foliage of coniferous trees in the summer. In the winter, they often migrate south.

Bat Facts!



Bats are nocturnal, meaning they are active at night, and can often be seen just after sunset hunting for food. They use echolocation to find their way in the darkness.

All bats in New York—and 70% of all bats in the world—are insectivores, or insect-eaters. Bats eat A LOT of insects! Each bat can eat up to 50% of its own body weight in insects each night (think of a 150 lbs person eating 75 lbs of food every day).

PROTECTION OF BATS IN NEW YORK AND FORT DRUM



The Indiana Bat has been protected under the federal Endangered Species Act and New York state endangered species laws since 1967. The Northern Long-eared Bat was listed in 2015.

The Department of Defense is not exempt from environmental regulations. As a federal agency, the U.S. Army and Fort Drum must comply with the Endangered Species Act and ensure its actions do not negatively affect the Indiana bat to ensure its continued survival. Fort Drum works closely with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's New York Field Office to ensure its obligations are being met.

Fort Drum has implemented many conservation efforts that benefit bats.

- ◆ A 2200 acre Bat Conservation Area was established primarily in the Cantonment Area to protect known Indiana bat roosting and foraging areas from permanent development.
- ◆ Since Indiana bats (and all bat species) utilize trees for roosting and raising their young in the summer, no trees are generally allowed to be cut down between April 15 and October 15.

You can help bat conservation, too!

- ◆ Do not cut standing dead trees (snags) which benefit many wildlife species or living trees. If necessary, do so after October or before April.
- ◆ Put up a bat house in an appropriate location to benefit bats and reduce insect pests.

Most photos have been taken during bat surveys on Fort Drum since 2007. Photos of the Tri-Colored Bat (Larisa Bishop-Boros/www.wikipedia.com), Small-footed Bat (Al Hicks/NYSDEC), and roosting Indiana bats (Andrew King/USFWS) are used with permission.

Silver-haired Bat

(*Lasionycteris noctivagans*)



Silver-haired Bats are mostly solitary or roost in small groups. Traditionally, these bats are one of the rarest bat species in New York State. Through survey efforts, half of the resident summer records in NYS have been documented on Fort Drum. In the winter, they migrate south. Because they often follow ridgetops while migrating, many are killed by wind energy facilities.

Tri-Colored Bat

(*Perimyotis subflavus*)

Previously known as the Eastern Pipistrelle, this is one of New York State's smaller species of bat. In the summer, these bats may roost in clumps of leaves in trees. They are rarely found in houses or buildings. In the winter, they roost in caves, rock crevices and mines. Known to be a weak flyer, sometimes this bat is mistaken for a moth in flight.



Big Brown Bat

(*Eptesicus fuscus*)



The Big Brown Bat is New York's largest cave-dwelling bat. Like the Little Brown Bat, this species is also commonly found in human dwellings. Other summer roost sites

include under bridges and under the loose bark and in cracks and cavities of trees. They can survive very cold temperatures and can hibernate in areas too cold for other bats including attics, but are more typically found in caves and mines.