

# BAT You Didn't Know....

## Get the Facts:

1. Bats are the only flying mammals.
2. The bat wing very closely resembles the structure of the human hand.
3. Certain species of bats can fly over 50 miles per hour.
4. Bats usually only have one baby a year, this makes conservations efforts very important.
5. Very few bats contract rabies.

## Payoffs of Bat Conservation

- ✦ Most bats are primary predators of night-flying insects, especially those that can do damage to crops.
- ✦ The presence of insect-eating bats decreases the need for chemical pesticides.
- ✦ Other species of bats are pollinators and seed-dispersers
- ✦ Bats rarely compete for food or space. Having bats in your yard would not affect attracting birds or other wildlife species.
- ✦ Most bats consume their body weight in insects during each feeding.

## Ideal conditions for bat boxes:

- ✦ **Height placement:** 20-30 feet off the ground, usually on poles or the sides of buildings work best
- ✦ **Sun exposure:** at least 6 hours of full sunlight
- ✦ **Surrounding habitat:** Open areas, areas along forest edges, or where varied agriculture is mixed with natural habitat
- ✦ **Proximity to water:** located near rivers, ponds, lakes, or streams is important

## Bat house Specifications:

- ✦ **Color:** dark to medium shade of paint, i.e. dark gray
- ✦ **Wood:** untreated
- ✦ **Height:** at least 20 inches tall
- ✦ **Roosting surface:** rough, should not contained metal mesh
- ✦ **Exterior:** should be caulked and sealed with ventilation slots
- ✦ **Presence of landing areas**
- ✦ **Chamber spacing:** North American crevice-roosting bats prefer  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 inch chamber spaces
  - ✦ However, bats have been known to routinely use bat houses with a single  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch chamber and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch entry.
- ✦ Short and stout houses are less likely to attract bat colonies; whereas longer, wider houses have a higher success rate.

## Why bat houses are important

- ✦ More than half of North America's 46 bat species are in decline or are listed as endangered
- ✦ Many caves are being closed due to outbreaks of white nose syndrome, this has left bats seeking alternate means of shelter

## Bats you would you expect to find in a Georgia bat house

- ✦ Evening bat
- ✦ Big brown bat

✦ If you are interested in learning more about bat Projects available at Augusta State, please contact Dr. Cromer.



## Bats in the Augusta Area

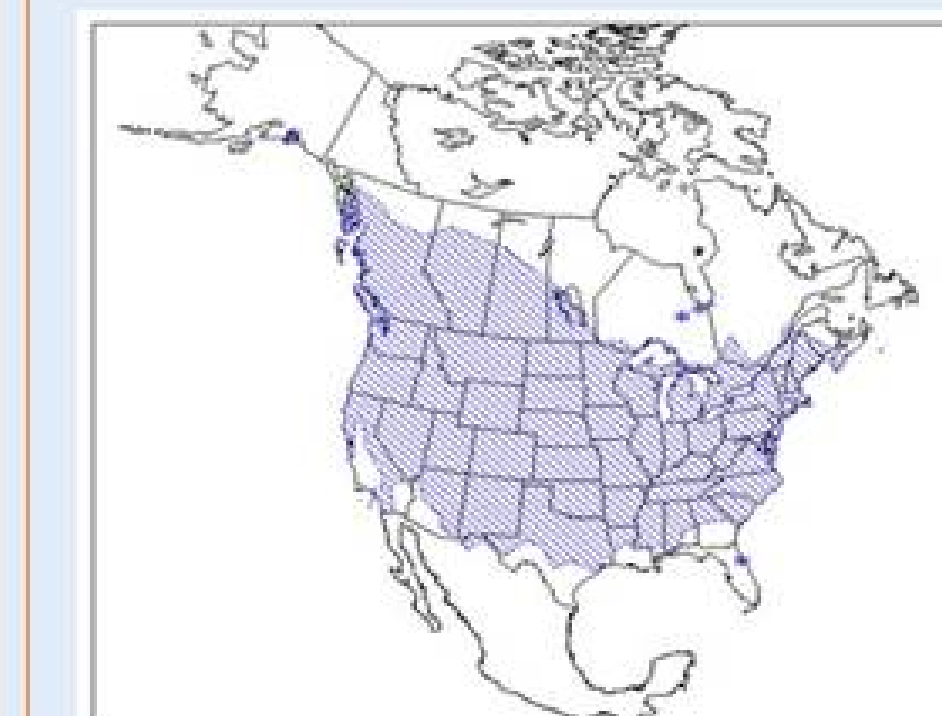
*Eptesicus fuscus*  
Big Brown Bat



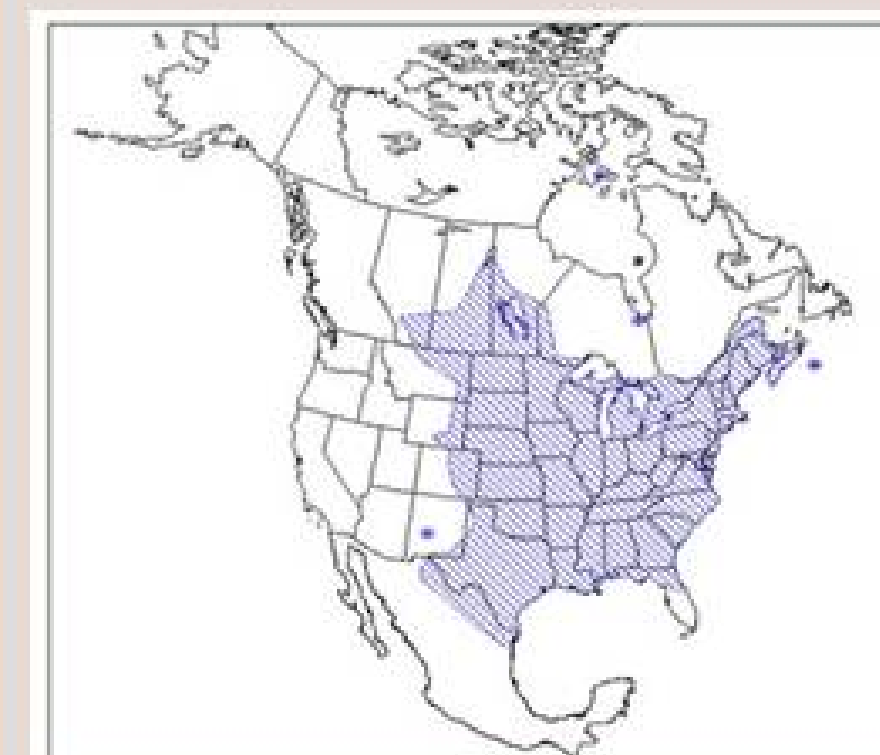
The Big Brown Bat is most abundant in deciduous forests. These bats commonly form colonies beneath loose bark and in small tree cavities. Maternity roosts today can be found in buildings, barns, bridges, and even bat houses. They feed primarily on beetles and a variety of night-flying insects.

Silver-haired bats are most commonly found in areas of America with coniferous and deciduous forest types. They form roosts in exclusively in tree cavities or small hollows. Much like the Big Brown Bat, this species also feeds on insects that are considered to be pest by humans and agriculture.

*Lasionycteris noctivagans*  
Silver-haired Bat



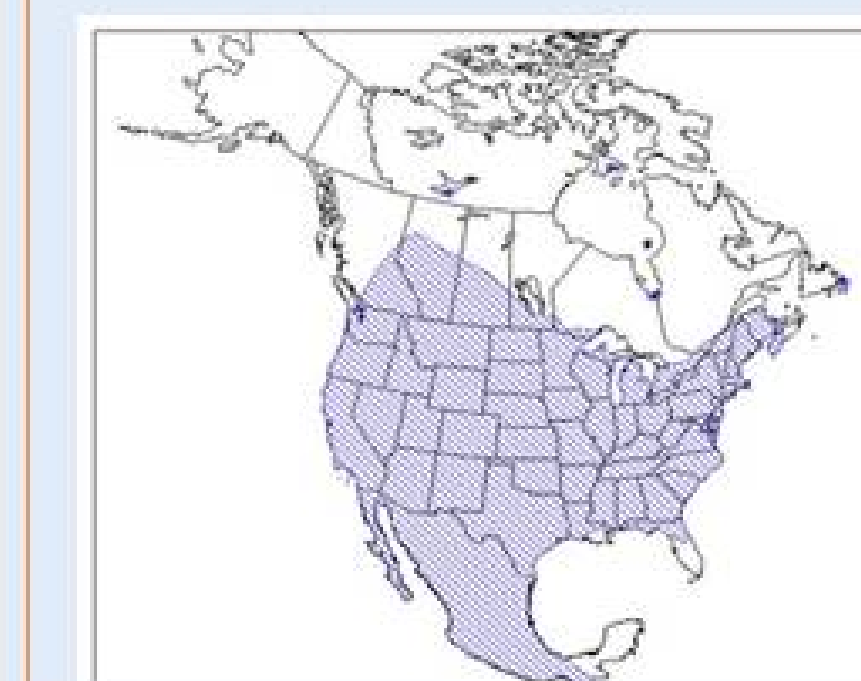
*Lasiurus borealis*  
Eastern red bat



Predominately living in trees, Eastern red bats are America's most common tree-dwelling bats. Eastern red bats are bright red in color, but are camouflaged, mostly looking like dead leaves or pine cones. Unlike other bats, this bat is a solitary bat that only comes together to mate and migrate. Most of these bats can give birth to twins and litters of up to five, even though it is most commonly is average three per litter.

The Hoary bat is America's largest and most cryptic bat, staying hidden in the foliage during the day. They can travel up to 24 miles during their foraging trips throughout the night. This migratory bat can commonly travel to subtropical and even tropical habitats during the winter months. The Hoary bat is Hawaii's only native land mammal to date.

*Lasiurus cinereus*  
Hoary Bat



*Lasiurus seminolus*  
Seminole Bat



The habitat choice for this bat is Spanish moss. The distribution of this Spanish moss is usually closely related to the distribution of the Seminole bat. The moss that is inhabited by the bats is usually found on the Westerly side of oak trees where it is shady. The Seminole Bat is commonly found foraging at dusk near clearing and areas with bodies of water. They are a Deep South resident that does not hibernate, but stay active during winters; weather permitting.

The Evening bat is most abundant in the Southeastern United States. Most commonly forms colonies in hollow trees, behind loose bark and the attics of homes. The Evening bat emerges at dusk to feed on a wide variety of small nocturnal insects.

*Nycticeius humeralis*  
Evening Bat

