



Creating a world
that is safe and sustainable
for wildlife and society

Photo: Jordi Segers

WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME IMPACTING BATS IN CANADA

What is white-nose syndrome?

White-nose syndrome [WNS] is a disease of hibernating bats caused by a recently discovered fungus called *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* [*Pd*]. WNS affects bats during the winter; growth of the fungus on the skin disturbs hibernation, resulting in dehydration, starvation, and death.

Why white-nose?

Bats affected by WNS may develop a white fuzzy fungal growth on the face or wings. They may look like they have a white nose.



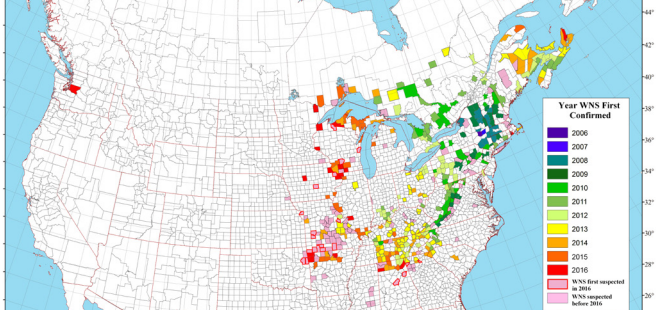
R. von Linden/NYDEC

Why are bats important?

- Bats are the only mammals capable of flight and are a unique part of our ecosystems.
- Bats eat insects that damage crops and carry diseases. They are very helpful to farmers.
- Many bat species also pollinate plants and disperse seeds.

WNS has killed over 6 million bats in North America, and some bat species may go extinct, making this the most critical threat to wildlife today.

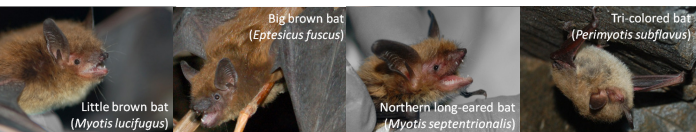




Where is WNS found?

WNS has been found in 5 Canadian Provinces: Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Recently, WNS was detected in Washington State, 1,300 miles west from where it was previously documented. Since then BC has increased testing efforts.

Which bat species are affected?



What is the CWHC doing?

- The CWHC coordinates Canada's national surveillance program for WNS.
- Working with partners, we developed a decontamination protocol to prevent the spread of the fungus (available on Youtube).
- We carry out research to help understand the disease, its spread and how to prevent it.

What can you do?

- Spread the word: bats are good for healthy ecosystems and economies. Tell your friends!
- Stay out of caves or other sites where bats hibernate.
- Learn what to do if you find a bat in your home or yard: http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/wns_instructions.php
- Follow the CWHC on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or subscribe to the healthy wildlife newsletter.

www.healthywildlife.ca

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