

Bats



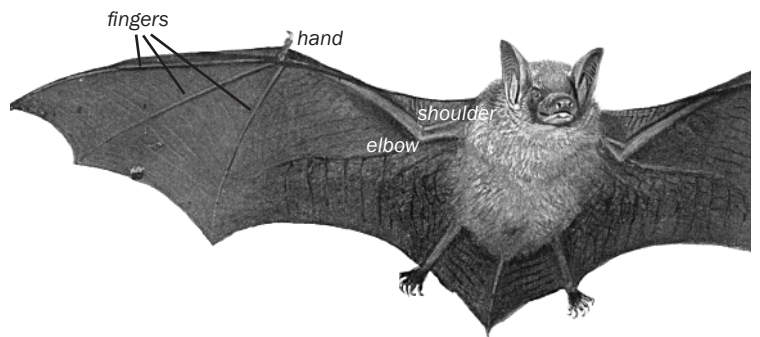
Misunderstood Creatures

Pop culture often portrays bats as creatures that easily get tangled in hair, are rabid bloodsuckers, and associates them with vampires and disease. In reality, bats are vital to the health of our ecosystems and economy. They help control pests, are seed dispersers and pollinators.

Did you know...

There are 11 species of bats in Ohio. The most common species are Little Brown Bats and Big Brown Bats. As a nocturnal mammal, they are more active at night. All Ohio bats feed on insects, so they are considered insectivores. A single bat can consume 100 percent of its body weight every night, eating up to 1,000 insects every hour!

Bats are the only mammal capable of true flight. Their wings are structured like a human arm with a thin piece of skin extending between the body, hand, and between each finger. They take flight by falling instead of lifting off, which is one of the reasons they sleep upside down.



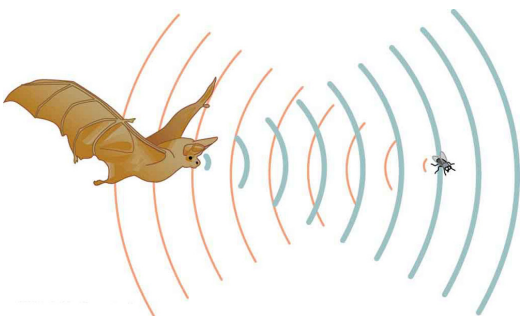
Summer & Winter Habitats

In the summer, bats roost in trees, barns, attics, and bat boxes in areas where food and other resources for survival are abundant. During winter months when food is scarce and temperatures drop, some bats migrate south and other bats hibernate in caves and mines.



Navigating by Sound

Bats emit sounds that bounce off objects in their paths and send echoes back to them. These echoes help them determine the size of objects, their distance, and how fast they are traveling. This traveling process is known as echolocation.



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Bats are in Trouble

Habitat loss leads to bats roosting in attics, barns, and other man-made structures where they may not be wanted. If you find bats in your home, it's best to call a professional to complete a safe removal. Consider hanging a bat house in your backyard for them to roost in.

White-nose syndrome is a cold-loving fungus that grows in caves where bats hibernate. The fungus attacks areas of bare skin, like their noses, causing them to wake up and be more active when they should be hibernating. The fat stores they need to survive the winter are then burned up more quickly, leading to starvation.



PHOTO COURTESY RYAN VON LINDEN/NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION



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