

BC Annual Bat Count

VOLUNTEERS WANTED: Help Monitor Endangered Wildlife

Bat Counts 101

What?

The BC Annual Bat Count is an easy, fun, and safe way to help monitor bat populations

Who?

Anyone who is eager to help, including homeowners with roosts, please sign up to volunteer for the program at bcbats.ca. Invite your friends, family and neighbours to help count!

When?

- two **between June 1 and 21** (before pups can fly)
- two more **between July 11 and August 5** (when pups are flying and exiting the roost with their mothers)

Where?

Volunteers wait outside a known roost site, such as a bat box, barn, or attic, and count bats as they fly out at twilight



Photo by J. Saremba

Calling all citizen scientists!

Spring is here and bats are back. The BC Community Bat Program is requesting volunteer assistance to count bats at local roost sites. Contact your Regional Bat Coordinator at info@bcbats.ca to be added to the volunteer list and help count bats at a roost near you.

Time is running out for the Little Brown Bat; an endangered species in Canada due to White-Nose Syndrome (WNS), a fungal disease fatal to bats. The fungus responsible has recently been detected in BC for the first time, sounding the alarm bell for BC's bats.

Bat count data helps biologists understand bat distribution and monitor for impacts of White-Nose Syndrome. Results from the Bat Count may help prioritize areas in BC for research into treatment options and recovery actions.

Bat Count How-to

1. Arrive at your bat roost at sunset (bats will begin to emerge at dusk)
2. The air temperature should be at least 12 deg (C) with no rain and low wind speed
3. Grab a partner and count bats at an exit point, with the sky as a contrasting backdrop. Note: More people may be needed if bats are exiting from multiple points
4. Only count bats as they exit, excluding bats seen flying around, with a counting app on your phone or a hand “clicker”
5. Record your observations on the data sheet
6. Send us your data sheet at the end of the summer
7. Do not enter bat roosts and never handle a live bat
8. Please respect private property. Ask permission if the bat roost is on someone else’s land
9. A guano sample can also be collected at the roost and sent in to identify the species of bat, and to test for White-Nose Syndrome fungus



Watch this [Bat Count how-to video](#) by the Kootenay Community Bat Project



This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
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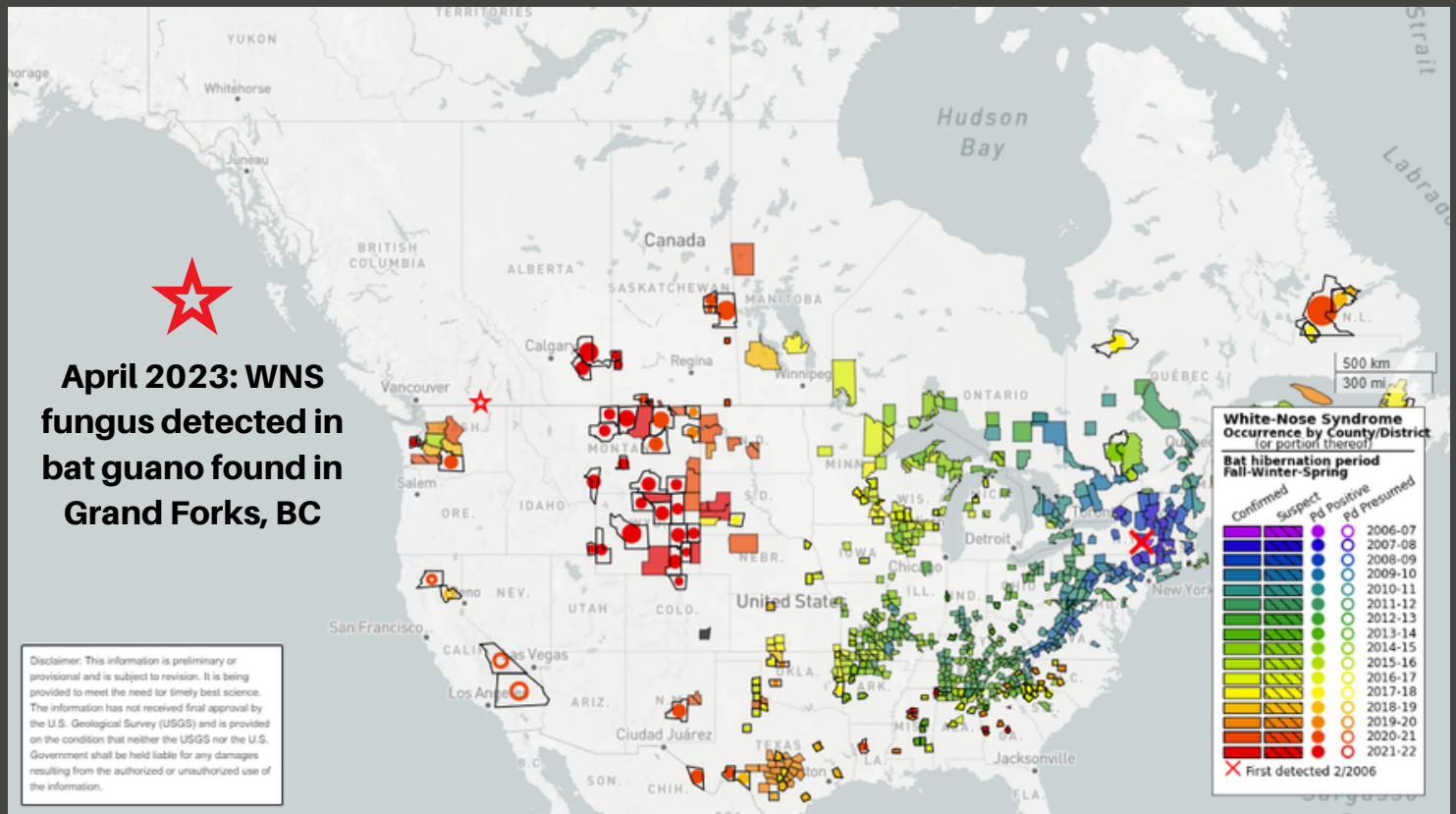
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Where is WNS?

Track the Spread



White-nose syndrome occurrence map – by year (2023)

Available at www.whitenosesyndrome.org/where-is-wns



Photo by C. Buick

Count with us!

The BC Community Bat Program provides information and promotes local stewardship and citizen science in partnership with the BC Ministry of Environment, and is funded by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Forest Enhancement Society of BC, Habitat Stewardship Program, and local sponsors.

www.bcbats.ca | info@bcbats.ca

1-855-922-2287 (1-855-9BC-BATS)

Contact us to find out more about bat counts or white-nose syndrome, to report a dead bat, or to get advice on managing bats in buildings.

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