

Little Brown Bat



Appearance

The little brown bat has brown, glossy fur which is lighter underneath around its stomach. They have a wingspan around 22-27cm. The female little brown bats are larger than the males. They have short rounded ears.

Lifespan

The little brown bat usually lives around 6 to 7 years, but can live more than 10 years. There was a little brown bat found in Ontario to be 31-years-old.

Habitat

The little brown bat lives in the United States and the more southern parts of Canada, including southern Ontario. In fact, you can find this bat in all of Canada's provinces and territories except Nunavut.

Hibernation

The little brown bat hibernates from September to May. Depending on the temperatures in the winter, little brown bats may come out of hibernation in the winter to hunt insects.

Food

This bat eats mostly insects, such as moths and flies. It hunts at night and therefore has to use echolocation to track its prey. Echolocation is the use of sound waves. The bat will call out into its environment and listen to the echoes that come back to it, to understand where things are in its surroundings.



All about the Little Brown Bat

Predators

There are many animals that prey on little brown bats. Such predators include snakes, martens, fishers, birds, rats and other small carnivores. Some predators kill bats when they have fallen to the ground during hibernation.



At Risk of Extinction

The little brown bat has been an endangered species in Ontario as of January 24, 2013. This means it is at risk of extinction.

Why they are at Risk of Becoming Extinct:

The little brown bat is at risk of becoming extinct due to a disease called white nose syndrome. This fungus is found in cold and humid places such as caves where bats hibernate. It causes the bats to wake up too early from hibernation and use up the fat supplies in their body before spring, which causes them to starve. This fungus may also make bats dehydrated during hibernation, and as a result they try to fly outside during the winter. More than 5.5 million bats have died in North America from this disease and in some locations, 100% of little brown bats have died.

