

Bats of Indiana



Big brown bat, *Eptesicus fuscus* (Frequent bat house user)

ID: Large bat (0.8 oz; 4.3-5.1 inches total length) with glossy yellow-brown fur and medium length ears with rounded tips. The tail tip extends beyond membrane.

Habitat: Wide range of habitats from urban to rural. Typical summer roosts are man-made structures, trees, or snags.



Little brown bat, *Myotis lucifugus* (Frequent bat house user)

ID: Smaller than Big brown bat. Fur is glossy yellow-brown and belly is buff yellow with darker roots. Long toe hairs on the feet.

Habitat: Associated with humans, often forming colonies in buildings, attics and other man-made structures, but also roosts in tree cavities and crevices.



Indiana bat, *Myotis sodalis* (Endangered; occasional bat house user)

ID: Medium-sized bat (0.3 oz; 3.2 inches total length) with charcoal fur on back and a buff belly. The skin around the eyes is pinkish. Small feet with short toe hairs.

Habitat: During summer, roosts under loose bark of dead trees. During winter, hibernates in caves and mines



Northern bat, *Myotis septentrionalis* (Occasional bat house user)

ID: Medium-sized bat. Dark brown, yellow-brown or blond fur on back. Fur is dark at the root. Pinkish skin around ears and eyes. Long ears.

Habitat: During summer, roosts under exfoliating bark and in tree cavities. During winter, hibernates in caves and mines.



Evening bat, *Nycticeius humeralis* (Not a frequent bat house user)

ID: Medium to large body size. Dark brown fur with black ears. Often confused with *Myotis* species.

Habitat: During summer and winter, roosts in hollow trees under loose bark, or buildings. Never found in caves.



Tri-colored bat (Eastern pipistrelle), *Perimyotis subflavus* (Occasional bat house user)

ID: Small body size. Brown/reddish fur on back (tri-colored). Facial skin is pinkish brown. Forearms are pinkish.

Habitat: During summer, roosts in foliage and occasionally in buildings and bridges. During winter, hibernates in caves and mines.



Eastern red bat, *Lasiurus borealis* (Not a frequent bat house user)

ID: Medium-sized. Males are a bright reddish orange, while females are a duller orange with frosting on the tips of the fur. The tail membrane is furred on the upper surface.

Habitat: During the summer, roosts in dense foliage in trees. Migrate to warmer regions during the winter where they roost among leaves on the ground.

Other bats found in this region include the hoary bat, silver-haired bat, and possibly the eastern small-footed bat, Rafinesque's big-eared bat, and southeastern myotis.

Why are bats so important?

They eat insects that are pests to crops and trees. They save us millions of dollars in pesticide use!

BAT HOUSES



Why put up a bat house?

1. Bats eat thousands of insects each night.
2. Provide bats alternative to living in human dwellings.
3. Provide a secure roost for species declining due to habitat loss and white-nose syndrome (go to whitenoisesyndrome.org for more info).



How to select the correct bat house

1. Design

- At least **2' tall, 13" wide, and 3" deep**
- Roost chambers at least 20" tall, 14" wide, and 3/4" apart
- Landing area extending 3-6" below the entrance
- Opening at least 3/4 - 1 inch wide

2. Construction

- **Cedar or Exterior Plywood**
- Caulk all seams and use galvanized screws instead of nails

3. Wood Treatment

- Exterior- 3 coats of exterior grade, water-based paint or stain
- Consult map at right for paint color
- Interior- 2 coats dark, exterior grade, water-based stain

4. Sun Exposure

- At least **six hours of direct daily sun** recommended for all bat houses where July's daily highs average < 100° F

5. Habitat

- **Diverse habitat** (mixed agriculture and natural habitats)
- ≤ 1/4 mile from a source of water
- Where bats have already attempted to live in buildings

6. Mounting

- Mount on a building or pole; **bat houses mounted on trees are not as successful**
- At least 12 feet above the ground

7. Protection from Predators

- **Houses mounted on buildings or on metal poles** provide the best protection from predators
- Metal predator guards may be helpful

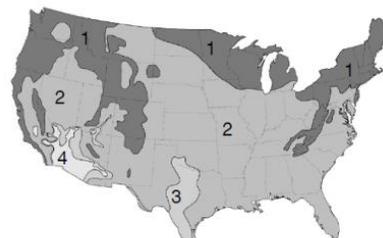
8. Avoiding Uninvited Guests

- Use 3/4" roosting spaces and open-bottom design to reduce the risk of wasps, birds, squirrels, and other pests

9. Timing + Experimentation

- Install at any time of year, but more likely to be used if installed before the bats return to the area in spring
- Test for use before putting up > 3-6 houses

Bat house color recommendations and average daily high temperatures in July



Areas	Wooden Houses	Plastic/Stucco Houses
1) Dark areas:	black	dark color
2) Medium:	dark or medium color	medium color
3) Light:	medium color	light color
4) Lightest:	white or light color	light color



Visit these websites for plans on how to build your own bat house or buy a ready-made house!

http://batconservation.org/drupal/bat_house

<http://batcon.org/index.php/get-involved/install-a-bat-house.html>



Visit

www.isubatcenter.org

for more information