

2024



ROOST MONITORING REPORT

By Heather Kaarakka

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Wisconsin Bat Program
Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Image: Heather Kaarakka

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To our Wisconsin Bat Program volunteers,

What can we say about 2024 except that it was yet another successful year for summer bat roost monitoring! Volunteers and monitors continue to be an exceptionally dedicated group of scientists—this year you conducted over 700 emergence surveys and counted over 27,000 bats! We receive more data than we can incorporate into the yearly report for which we are extremely grateful, but we've included some highlights and information here that we hope you'll find interesting. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service continues to look to our program for important information on summer colonies of bats and impacts of WNS. We hope you are proud of the science you do and the fact that your data help inform important decisions for protecting bats. Enjoy learning about everyone's hard work surveying bats in 2024!

With thanks,

The Wisconsin Bat Program team



A big brown bat roosting on a screen in Vernon County. Photo: H. Peterson.

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Little brown bats using bat houses in La Crosse County. Photo: H. Kaarakka, WDNR

A Background On Bat Roost Monitoring in Wisconsin

As the threat of the deadly bat disease, [white-nose syndrome](#) (WNS), loomed on the horizon in 2010, the Wisconsin Bat Program (WBP) set out to find out where bats are roosting in the summer in the state, what types of roost sites they use and how many bats are inhabiting the roosts. Since 2010, landowners and volunteers have helped

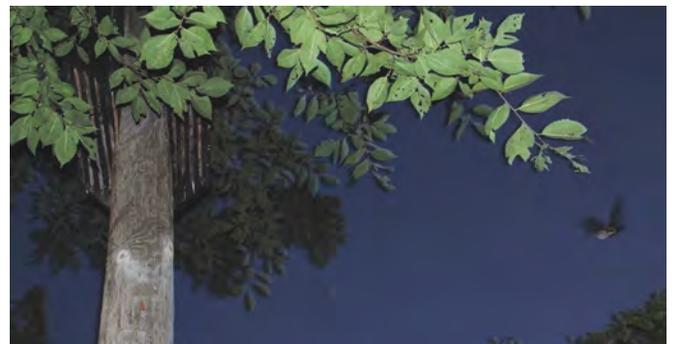
A roost is where bats congregate to rest during the day. Bats need these safe places to sleep and raise their young. Summer roosts can be trees, bat houses, attics, barns and other buildings, bridges, and other secret places.

WBP locate and monitor over 200 summer **roosts** of [little brown bats](#), [big brown bats](#) and [tricolored bats](#). These monitoring efforts by citizen-scientists helped WBP establish baseline information about summer

bat colonies prior to the arrival of WNS to Wisconsin, watched declines in colonies when WNS hit in 2014, and are now starting to observe stabilization and even recovery at some roosts.

Conducting emergence counts is simple and entails sitting at the roost at dusk and counting the bats as they fly out. We know that the number of bats in roosts changes daily, and bats move among roost sites frequently, but even just one emergence count can provide the WBP with important information—the roost is inhabited and there are roughly so many bats!

You can read more background on bats and roost monitoring in previous [roost monitoring reports](#) and in the [roost monitoring packet](#).



A little brown bat emerges from a bat house in Green County, WI. Photo: H. Kaarakka, WDNR.

Roost Monitoring In 2024

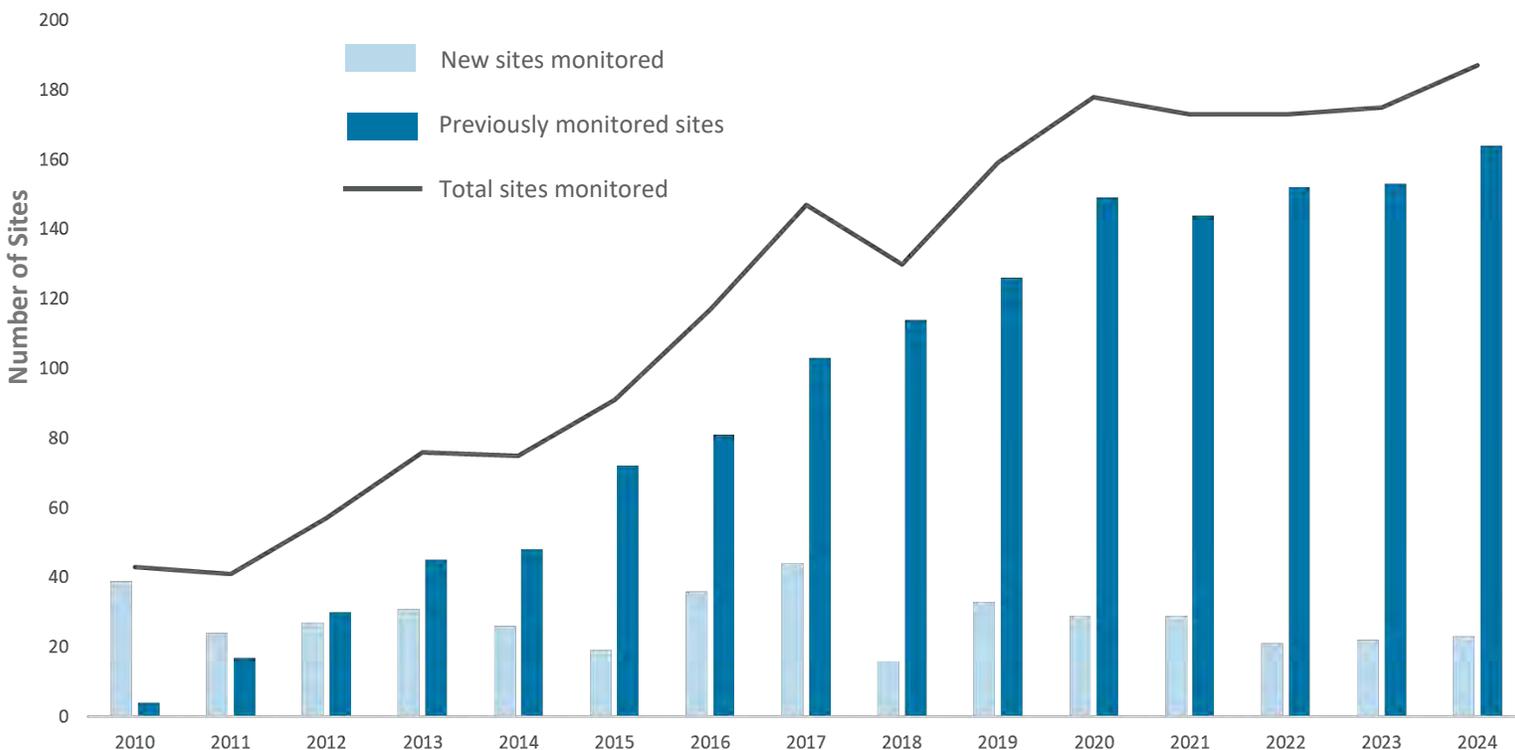
In 2024, 293 volunteers conducted 703 emergence surveys in 64 counties from March to October. Volunteers monitored 187 roosts in summer 2024 including 23 newly reported roost sites!

In 2024, a whopping 21,909 little brown bats were counted! We creep ever closer to the 2016 high count of 23,000. A total of 5,093 big brown bats were counted, roughly the same as the last couple years. Total numbers counted are estimated from the highest counts at each site. Four tricolored bats were counted at one site in summer 2024. Little brown bats were counted at 42% of monitored sites in 2024, big brown bats were counted in 53% of the sites, and the remaining sites housed tricolored bats, both little brown and big brown bats, or it is unknown which species is housed. See page 15 for more details in the roost monitoring infographic.

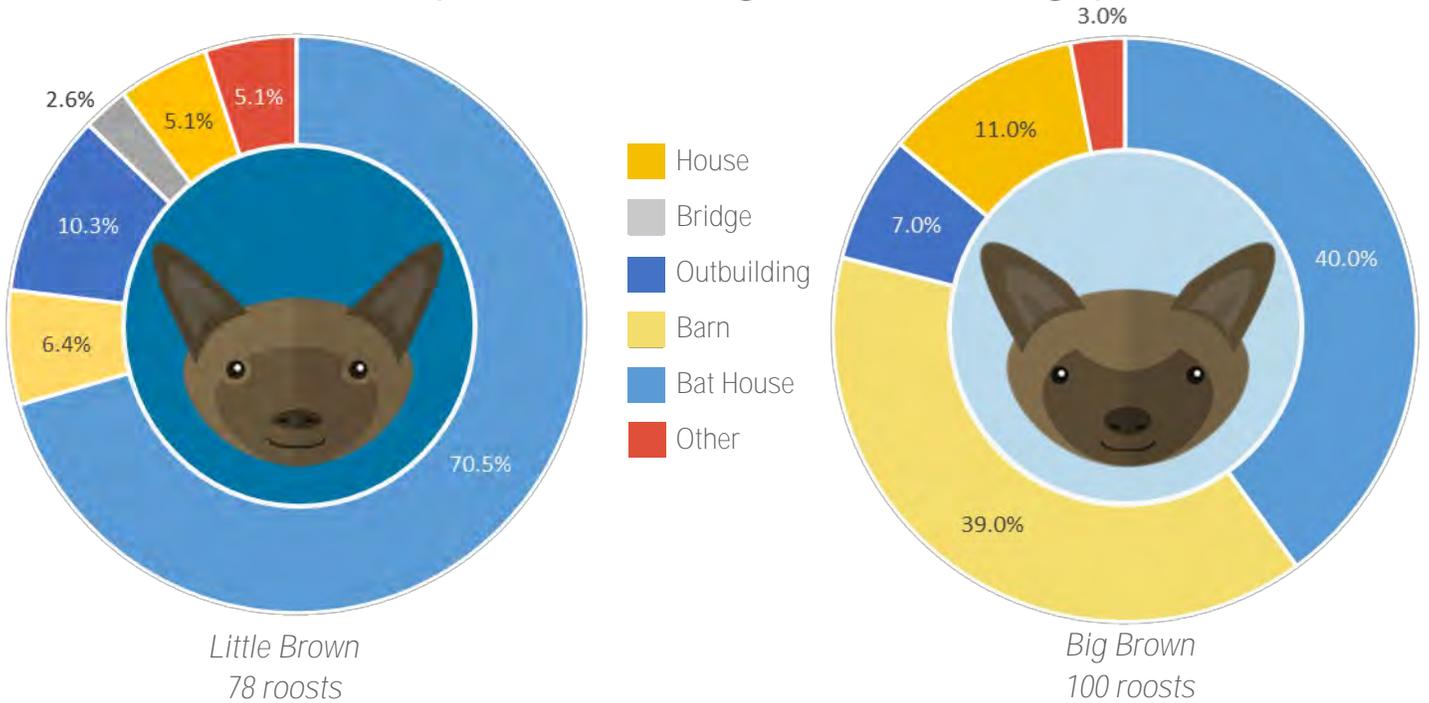


Little brown bats roost under some hanging fabric at one of the newly reported 2024 roosts. The fabric makes a good peeling bark mimic! Photo: H. Kaarakka, WDNR.

2024 Monitored Bat Roost Sites

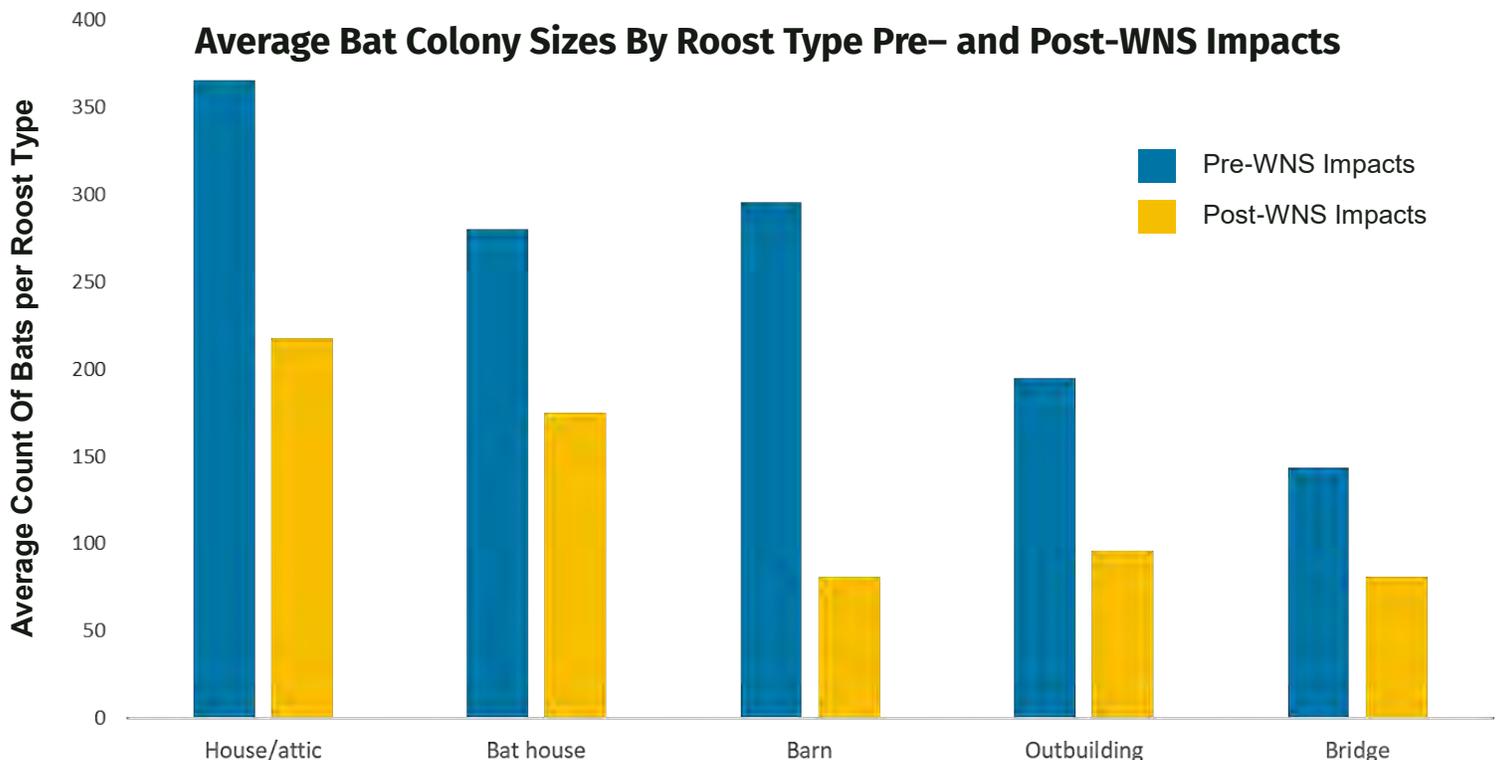


Bat Species By Roost Type



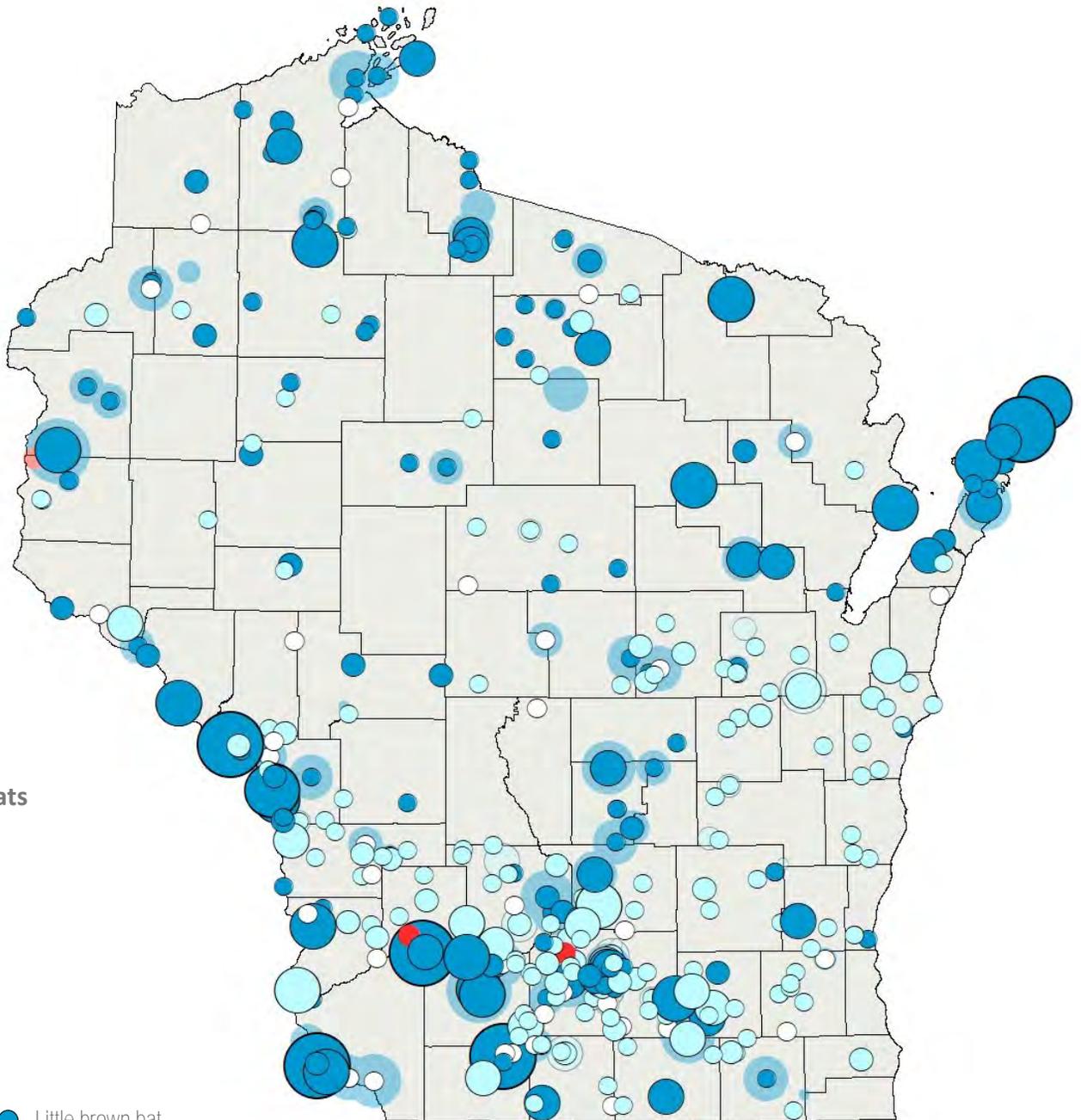
Little brown bats were found most often in bat houses, and big brown bats used barns and bat houses about equally.

Below displays the average little brown bat colony sizes by roost type before WNS impacts (2010-2016) in blue and after WNS began impacting little brown bats (2017-2024) in gold. Overall, little brown bat colonies declined by about 75% in the years following WNS arrival in the region. You can see below that how much colonies declined varies by type of roost with colonies in barns experiencing the highest declines and those in bat houses and attics experiencing the lowest declines. When one compares average colony size from 2024 to pre-WNS colonies, the picture is a less bleak— average colony sizes in all roost types increased this year. In fact, one attic colony where we lack pre-WNS surveys drove the average 2024 attic counts up to 27% higher than pre-WNS counts!



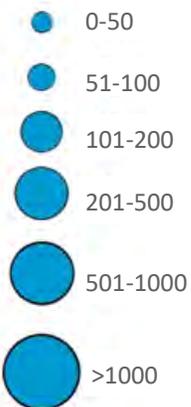
Bat Roosts By Size

This map depicts the distribution and size of monitored bat colonies in Wisconsin. Light blue indicates big brown bat colonies, dark blue indicates little brown bat colonies, orange indicates tricolored bat colonies and white indicates a roost with no recent survey or unknown species. The size of the dot indicates the average size of the population at the roost, and the shaded circles behind the roost locations are previous population estimates from emergence surveys.



Colony Size

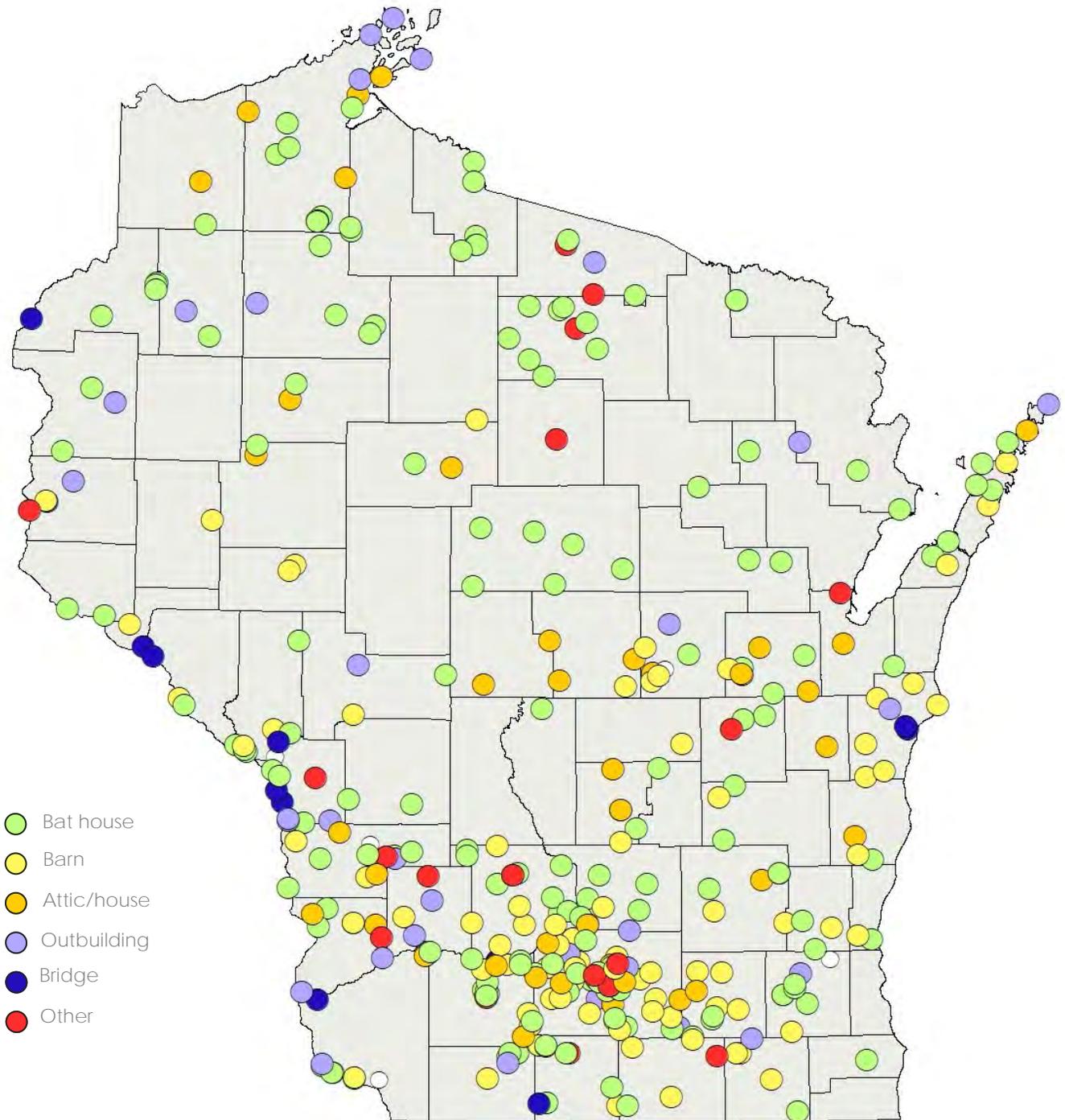
Number of bats



- Little brown bat
- Big brown bat
- Tricolored bat
- No recent survey/
Unknown Species

Bat Roosts By Type

This map depicts the distribution of monitored bat colonies by type of roost. The color of the dot indicates the type of roost.

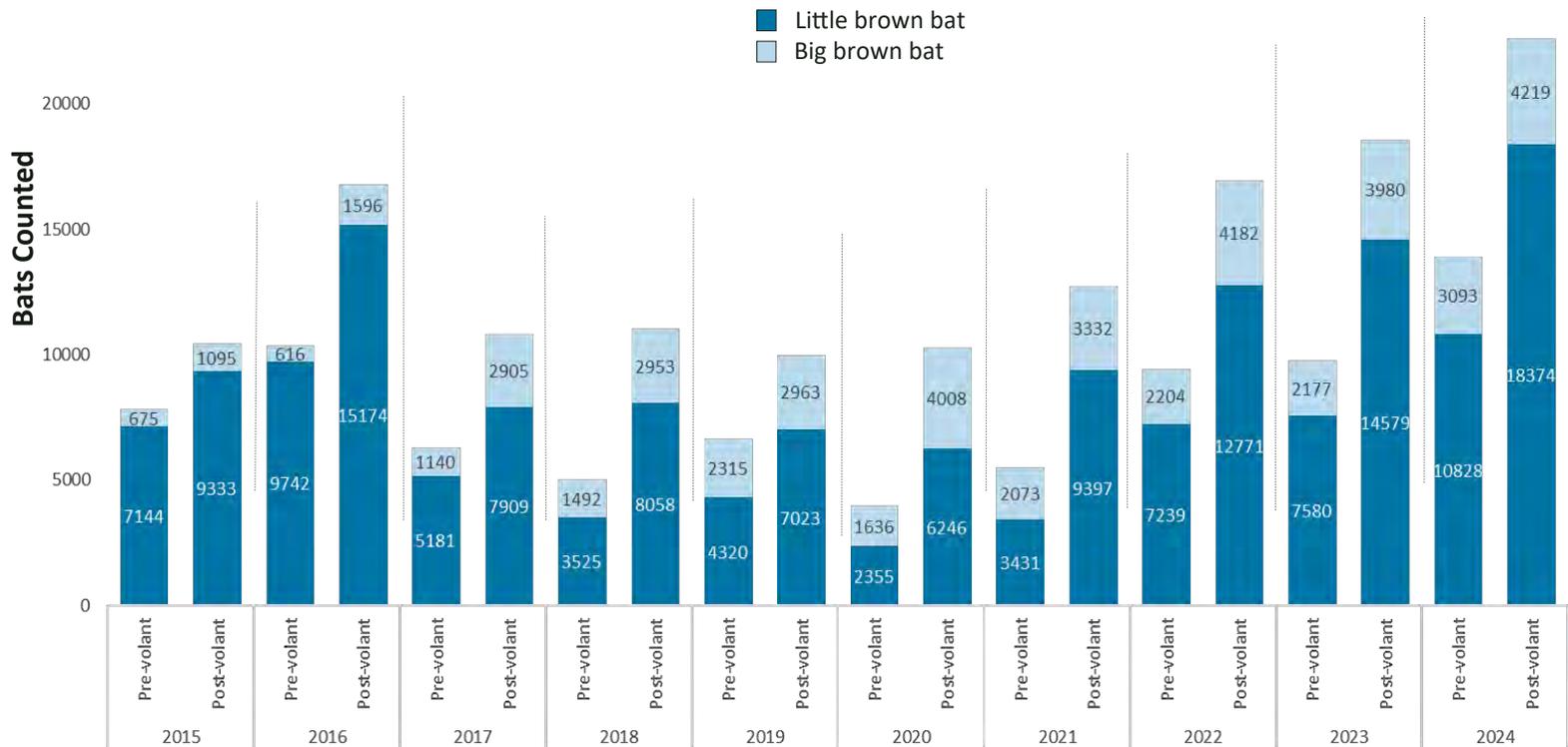


Tenth Annual Great Wisconsin Bat Count

WBP created a statewide bat count, similar to the Christmas Bird Count.

The Great Wisconsin Bat Count (GWBC) started in 2015 with the goal of counting as many roost sites as possible in a single weekend to create a long-term dataset helpful in identifying status and trends of monitored species. Two statewide counts are completed yearly, the first weekend in June during the pre-volancy period (before pups are able to fly) and a weekend in mid-July during the post-volancy period (after juveniles can fly) to help investigate reproductive success of monitored colonies. All these counts have been great successes. This year surveyors counted **13,921** bats in June and **22,593** bats in July, the highest total bat count ever during the GWBC! At 18,374 bats, 2024 also had the highest little brown bat GWBC number ever in July!

Great Wisconsin Bat Count Results 2015-2024



Bat House Builder Mary Dussling



Bat houses donated by Mary Dussling ready for install in 2025.

In November 2024, Wisconsin bats lost a great advocate. [Mary Dussling of Best Bat Houses](#) in Oregon, Wisconsin passed away on November 6. Mary began building bat houses in the early 2000s after discovering the wonderful world of bats. Her background and interest in construction inspection served her well when she started her bat house business and began building and selling high-quality bat houses around the state and the country. The bat boxes she built were based on Bat Conservation International's (BCI) designs and certified by BCI.

Not only did Mary sell well-made bat houses, she was also an advocate for bats and worked to share the importance of bats with the public when she attended garden shows and expos. Mary recognized that building a bat house is only part of the process of providing habitat for bats, and in each box she sent out she included detailed information about how and where to install bat houses as well as how to maintain them.

Mary sent out hundreds of bat houses across the county and made sure that the type and color of the bat house matched the region's climate - lighter colored bat houses for hotter areas and darker bat house for our region. All of her bat houses were well-sealed with roofing shingles ensuring they would last as long as possible.

In recent years Mary donated a portion of her proceeds to the Wisconsin Bat Program which helped us maintain and replace bat houses on state properties and supported research on bat house conditions and other projects.

When Mary got sick, she contacted us wanting to donate the remainder of her built bat houses and the Wisconsin Bat Program received 6 maternity boxes and 7 single-chamber boxes from her. These wonderful bat houses will go up on state properties to replace existing roost that are deteriorating as well as get placed at new locations along the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers where little brown bats are thriving. We are excited for the possibility of using Mary's bat houses to create new roosting habitat in places we suspect are good summer habitat for little brown bats.

When Mary passed away, her sister Pat took over coordinating the bat house donation. We are grateful to both Mary and Pat for the bat house donation and thank Mary for her support and advocacy over many years.

Mary was on our roost monitoring list and always checked in after our updates. She was excited to see little brown bats rebounding in the past couple years. She will be missed.

Continued Daily Emergence Counts

Study of daily emergence continues with thermal cameras at several little brown bat roosts and one big brown bat roost this year. Cameras were placed at two roosts for all of summer 2024 and at several other roosts for two weeklong periods at a time.

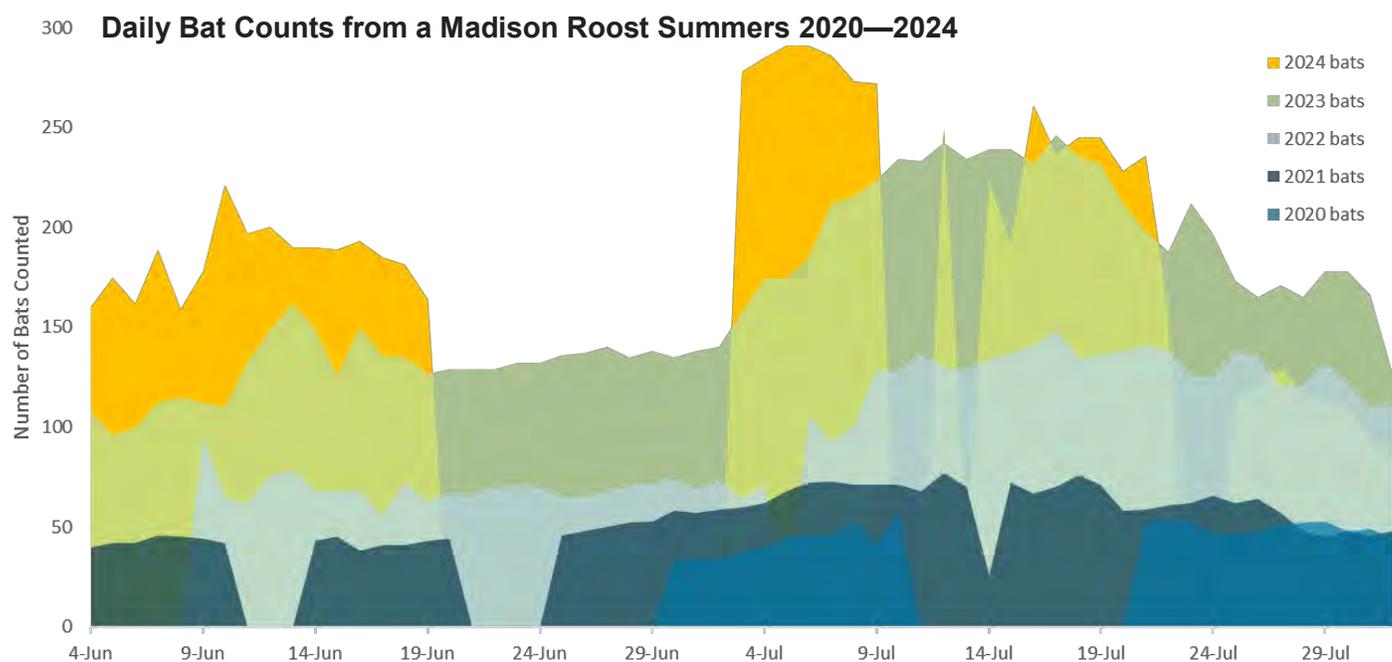
At a site in Madison where we recorded emergence summers of 2020-2024, the daily counts steadily increased from 2020 to 2021 (see below) and doubled in 2022 and 2023! As with the big brown bat colony daily counts (page 10), the data start to get confusing after three years of counts. However, several things are becoming clear from these daily surveys:

1. The number of bats emerging daily can be drastically different, likely due to changes in behavior depending on the time of year (e.g., pups in roost) and

weather (e.g., cold snaps in May or rain events in the evening).

2. Juvenile little brown bats in southern Wisconsin start to fly in the first couple of weeks of July and when exactly this happens may vary depending on spring weather. The volatility date range we've gleaned from these surveys suggests we're almost spot-on for counting the most flying juvenile little brown bats during the GWBC in mid-July!

3. There are more bats each year these sites are surveyed. Whether these increases in population are driven by reproduction, survival or immigration remains a mystery. The large jump in 2022 may be due to clearing brush and trees around the box to increase solar exposure making the bat house more suitable (warmer and less cluttered).

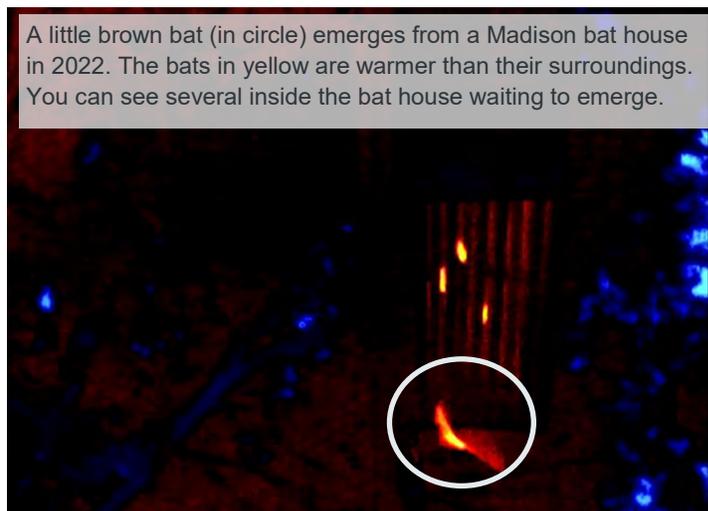


Note: gaps in counts were because the battery ran out or the camera was pointed away from the bat house. In 2020, the camera was not installed until July. Especially in 2022-2024 we can see bat numbers increase dramatically when juveniles are volant in early July. 2024 had the highest post-WNS counts yet for this site!

These daily counts show that we will never get an exact number of bats using a roost in summer since the number is fluid. This doesn't mean that two counts or even one count doesn't provide good information. The Wisconsin Bat Program is starting to think about roosts in terms of classes and even with one or two counts per year, long-term trends begin to appear such as the effects of white-nose syndrome on little brown bat summer colonies.

The Wisconsin Bat Program continues to be cautiously optimistic about seeing increases in little brown bat numbers!

A little brown bat (in circle) emerges from a Madison bat house in 2022. The bats in yellow are warmer than their surroundings. You can see several inside the bat house waiting to emerge.



Big Brown Bat Roost Daily Counts

Daily count surveys also continued at the big brown bat house in Waukesha County. In 2024, the most bats counted was 16 in late July. The highest number of bats counted each surveyed year has been between 6 in 2022 and 49 in 2013. When in the summer the most bats were counted has also varied over the years. The most bats ever counted at this roost (49) was observed in mid-July, likely due to volant (flying) juveniles exploring. This year there were three sudden jumps in bat numbers, strikingly, almost to the day of previous years. The brief jumps in numbers in 2024 again line up with this volatility period. Peaks in numbers in spring and late summer suggest this may be bats moving between winter and summer habitat. The first bat in 2024 arrived at about the same time as 2023 but nearly a month later than the first bats in 2022, suggesting weather conditions may play an important role in when big brown bats become active in spring.



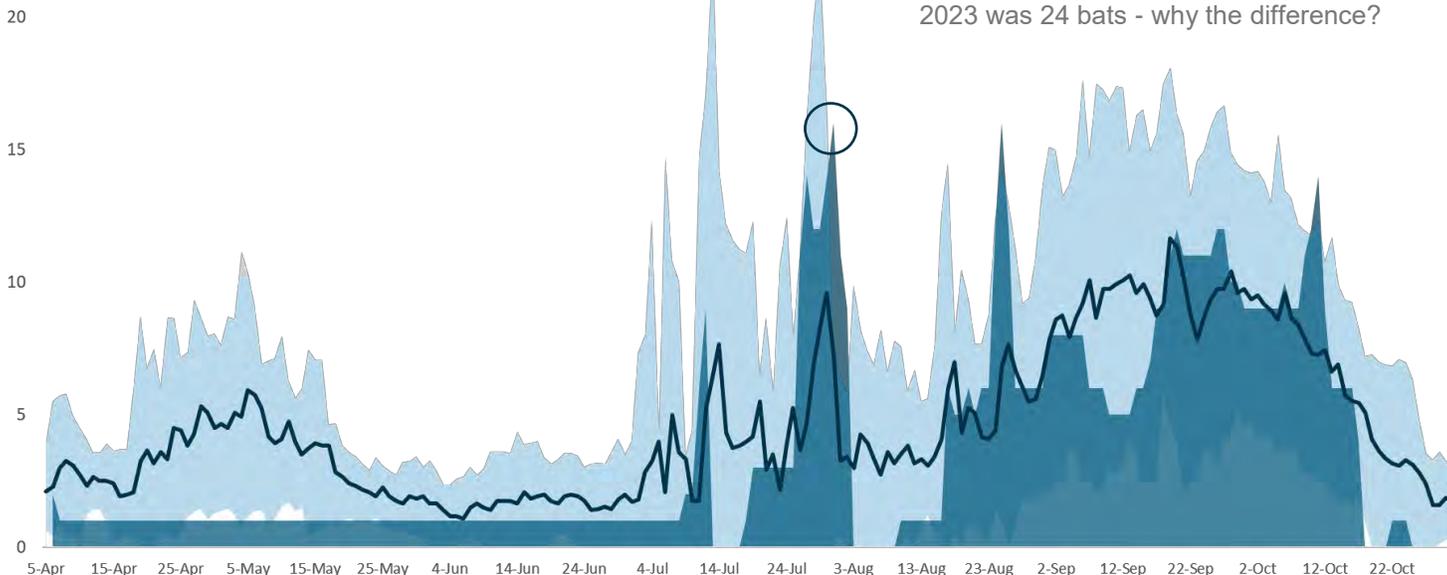
A big brown bat emerges from the bat house in Waukesha County that is monitored daily. Photo: J. Edlhuber

Overall, fewer bats were observed in the roost this summer than in previous years. The reason for the drop in numbers is unknown, however few big brown bat roosts have been monitored consistently for so long. It's possible that bat colonies may ebb and flow naturally as bats find and move into new roosts or success of raising young may vary with conditions. Even with the drop in colony size, the fact that this bat house has been consistently inhabited and surveyed for 12 years is very impressive!

25

Daily Bat Counts from Waukesha County Bat House 2012 — 2024

No. of bats



Highest bat counts: **16** on 7/31 and 8/24/2024, circle left. The highest count in 2023 was 24 bats - why the difference?

This site has been surveyed daily every year since 2012! In this graph, the dark blue indicates counts from 2024, the black line indicates the average daily number of bats at the roost over the past ten years, and light blue indicates how much variation in bat numbers there was on that day over the past ten years.

Have you observed bats flying out of bat roosts on hot days?

Researchers in the western and southern North America have observed bats flying out of bat houses during the day seeking shade because bat houses reach temperatures that are too hot for them. If you have observed instances of this we would be very interested to learn about them since it can help complete the picture of critical temperatures for bats. DNRbats@wisconsin.gov

Impacts Of White-nose Syndrome

There is no doubt that white-nose syndrome has impacted summer bat colonies; however, impacts are varied and may not be as dire for some species as expected. Like biologists watching populations in the east, the Wisconsin Bat Program has started to observe stabilization of little brown bat colonies and even some roosts that still have significant numbers of little brown bats. What caused some summer colonies to collapse and others to persist is unclear, but potential causes could be hibernation locations and conditions. Some summer roost sites might be ideal habitat encompassing good roost locations and close proximity to foraging habitat to reduce commuting costs. The questions about surviving bats and their habitats are what make summer roost monitoring and projects like

marking important. Big brown and little brown bat populations can continue to be tracked long-term with citizen-based monitoring at summer bat counts. Marking efforts can track individuals over time and make connections between summer and winter habitats. This link between seasons is one of the remaining mysteries for bats surviving white-nose syndrome in Wisconsin and is one of the keys to understanding what the future of bats looks like in the region.



A northern long-eared bat infected with white-nose syndrome in Crawford County.
Photo: H. Kaarakka, WDNR

Persisting, And Growing, Colonies

Thanks to the monitoring efforts of landowners and volunteers, the WBP has been able to identify several key roost sites around the state where little brown bat colonies appear to be persisting in large numbers despite impacts from WNS. Several roost sites along the Mississippi and Wisconsin rivers again had post-volancy counts of over 80% of historical numbers. At least one roost on the Mississippi River reached pre-WNS colony size this summer! These sites used to be home to more than 1,500 bats each, meaning these roosts continue to house significant colonies in the age of WNS. The Wisconsin Bat Program will continue to examine whether there are differences between roost sites that are persisting and sites where the bats have declined sharply. Differences could include how old the roost site is, how many bat houses are present and proximity to large water bodies.



Happy little brown bats persisting in an attic in Door County. We don't have counts for this roost site before WNS arrived, however the building continues to be home to more than 1,000 little brown bats suggesting pre-WNS colony size was likely 2,000 or more. Continued monitoring is critical to understand recovery of bats from WNS impacts. Photo: H. Kaarakka, WDNR



Banding work and now passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging of bats at many summer roost sites has made it clear that many colonies have bats that are surviving white-nose syndrome infection. Female bats banded in 2016 and 2017 were recaptured in 2022 during coordinated summer roost work with United States Geological Survey – National Wildlife Health Center. A bat PIT tagged in 2011 was recaptured yearly 2021-2024! And many bats PIT tagged at the start of the work in 2020 continue to return to their roost sites every year. These recaptures suggest that some bats are indeed surviving white-nose syndrome and stabilizing colonies is not simply bats redistributing among roosts.

Banding efforts like this one in 2015 are the way biologists have been able to recapture marked individuals years later and assess survival. Photo: H. Kaarakka, WDNR.

How Wisconsin Bat Program Uses Information From Volunteers

Reported and monitored bat roosts are important for furthering research and understanding of bats and white-nose syndrome in Wisconsin. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers and landowners, Wisconsin is unique and fortunate to have an established database of summer roost sites throughout the state which acts as a springboard for other important projects investigating bat behavior and WNS in the state. The assistance of volunteers and roost owners allowed the Wisconsin Bat Project to coordinate and complete several projects at reported summer roost sites in summer 2024.

Projects Conducted at Reported Roosts

- **Supporting information for listing of bat species.** Due to severe impacts from WNS, northern long-eared bats were listed by United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as threatened on the Federal Endangered Species list. In 2023 USFWS relisted the northern long-eared bat as endangered, proposed listing tricolored bat as endangered, and is reviewing the status of little brown bat for listing. To help make the most informed decision about listing bat species, USFWS creates species status assessments and considers population data from across the species' ranges including colony estimates from winter and summer sites. Thanks to monitoring efforts and counts from citizen-scientists in the summer bat roost project, Wisconsin is in a good position to provide detailed, long-term information on little brown bat summer roosts in the State. Less is known about northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat summer roosts in Wisconsin, but data from the few monitored roosts of these species were incorporated into the species status assessments and considered in listing and relisting of these bats. Specific details such as exact locations and landowners of roosts are kept confidential.
- **Investigating vaccine distribution methods.** As USGS National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) continues work developing a vaccine against white-nose syndrome, they come to the question of how exactly one vaccinates hundreds or thousands of bats. The vaccine itself is distributed orally, so bats need only to ingest it somehow to become vaccinated. Like all mammals, bats groom themselves and others and one idea has been to smear the vaccine as a gel onto places where bats are likely to crawl through it and eventually groom it off. This year NWHC continued to test this distribution method by applying the vaccine gel with a non-toxic biomarker to the landing pad of a bat house where bats would crawl through it. After a few days, any bats that ingested the vaccine would have the biomarker in their hair. We coordinated with NWHC to apply the gel in the early morning before bats returned and several nights later captured bats to sample their hair for biomarker. Results are still pending, but pilot projects like these are important for determining best methods such as the consistency of the gel to prevent it from drying out and when the best time to apply the gel is to maximize the number of bats in a colony that will ingest it.



A little brown bat emerges from one of the long-term monitoring sites whose data get incorporated into the species status assessments. Photo: H. Kaarakka, WDNR

Tracking Bat Mortality Events this Summer



Shortly after July 4th this summer, Wisconsin Bat Program began receiving reports of bats crawling on the ground and on walls of buildings around roost sites. Unfortunately many of these bats died. Within a couple weeks we had about 30 reports of similar events from all over the state, though most reports were from the western side of Wisconsin. Photos of the bats showed almost all were emaciated and some had high numbers of white mites or other parasites on them. Some mortality at summer roost sites is normal, however these reports showed anywhere from 5 to 20+ bats dead or dying at a time which is more than we expect.

Bat program staff collected fresh samples from two roost sites in Sauk and Dunn counties and submitted several specimens to US Geological Survey's National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) in Madison. When we collected samples, we noted that all bats were big brown bats and all appeared to be juveniles who were perhaps not able to fly. We also noted that very few bats remained inside the roosts suggesting that adults and juveniles who could fly had possibly moved to different roosts.

The NWHC tested the specimens for several things in attempts to determine cause of mortality. Several specimens were tested for rabies as well as avian influenza which all returned negative. Bats were also swabbed and tested for the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome which were also negative. Necropsied bats all showed empty stomachs and no fat deposits aligning with our observations that bats were severely underweight.

During the period that we received mortality reports from across Wisconsin, NWHC also started to receive similar reports from Minnesota as well as other locations in Wisconsin.

Since necropsies and tests were inconclusive we do not have an exact cause of mortality. In this case, however, the behavior and other observations may shed some light on what may have happened. The timing of the mortality events overlapped with the very start of volancy (flight) of juvenile bats. The fact that few if any adult bats were observed inside roosts suggests that they perhaps abandoned the roost and any juveniles

not able to fly. Why this happened is unknown, but Wisconsin had many severe storms with locally heavy rainfall in June, many of which seemed to coincide with evening emergence and perhaps forced bats to stay inside when they should be out foraging. Anecdotally we noted very few large insects flying around this summer which are main foods of big brown bats. Heavy rainfall not only could have prevented bats from foraging, but also washed away and killed adults, nymphs and eggs of insects.

What may have happened was a cascading effect of weather to adult condition to behavior and eventual mortality. With storms, adult bats were not able to forage to maintain their own condition in early summer and not able to properly nurse and care for young. It may have resulted in underweight adults and juveniles slow to mature. Adults may have tried to "hold on" as long as they could to take care of juveniles but by the time some juveniles could fly they had to start thinking about their own survival over their pups'. Adults abandoned roosts and any juveniles not able to fly resulting in juveniles exiting or falling from roosts seeking care and dying from exposure and starvation.

It is very concerning and disheartening for landowners to observe mortality events like these and for us to receive so many in a short time, but the reports and help we got from landowners in responding to this was extremely important for determining a quick plan of action. The mortality events this summer did not appear to be caused by disease, however as we've learned from the Covid-19 pandemic and other disease outbreaks, identifying these situations and testing is critical for appropriate response. We thank all of the landowners who submitted dead bat reports and photos. They helped us learn about the extent of the mortality events and glean information about the bats even if we couldn't collect specimens. It's great to know bat volunteers and landowners are keen observers and we can count on you if and when something like this happens again.

If you observe sick or dead bats at any time of year, you can report it using our online [dead bat report form](#). We strive to respond to these in a timely manner.

Continuing The Bat Roost Monitoring Project

Over the past 15 years, volunteers and citizen-scientists have helped create an important and invaluable database of bats roosts around the state. Each roost reported and emergence count completed helps create a better picture of summer bat roosting ecology in Wisconsin. The amazing efforts by landowners and volunteers are extremely valuable and current (and future!) roost monitoring will continue in the coming summers. Wisconsin Bat Program also continues the aim to grow the summer bat roost database. Every year, the number of monitored roosts grows and gives the WBP important information. The map at right shows each county where bat roosts are monitored in Wisconsin. The public is encouraged to report bat roosts in counties with and especially without monitored roosts.

Based on surveys conducted by Wisconsin Bat Program volunteers, bat colonies in Wisconsin appear to be stabilizing following impacts from

Blue indicates counties where one or more bat roosts are currently monitored or have been surveyed in the past three years.



WNS. As Wisconsin Bat Program scientists determine what potentially recovering populations look like, the roost data collected by volunteers shows that not all colonies are affected equally. Some habitats may be more suitable than others now that fewer bats are on the landscape. The data also help with understanding reproduction and whether bats in the region might fully recover or if what is observed in recent years is the “new normal” for little brown bats. Given what we’ve seen at many little brown bat roost sites the past couple years even a “new normal” is encouraging!

The summer bat roost monitoring project is able to thrive because of the incredible work of volunteers and landowners. **The Wisconsin Bat Program cannot thank everyone involved enough for their dedication and effort.**



Little brown bats roost in a kiosk sign in Oneida County. Photo: K. Ortman

I am constantly amazed by and thankful for the effort put forth by everyone who volunteers for the bat program, whether it be counting a roost, conducting an acoustic survey or giving a bat talk. It is magical to witness the excitement people have about bats and science, and I count myself very lucky to be a part of it. It's been a hard road with WNS in the state, but thanks to your efforts, we have made great strides in assessing WNS impacts on Wisconsin's bats and even see recovery! It may seem excessive, but thank you. We cannot continue the program without your help and support.



Heather Kaarakka
Bat Roost Project Coordinator



Heather Kaarakka removes a bat from a mist-net in western Wisconsin. Photo: Michael Kienitz

Have questions about bats or roost monitoring? Feel free to contact Heather:
heather.kaarakka@wisconsin.gov



This summer I got to revisit a large roost on DNR land near Peshtigo, WI where a condo and several bat houses were installed when a barn housing little brown bats was taken down. The bats took to the new roosts well and several hundred occupied the condo and boxes. Like all little brown roost sites, the colony experienced significant declines because of white-nose syndrome but in recent years has been back up to near pre-WNS counts! It's difficult to photograph bats emerging, but easy to capture the extraordinary number of mosquitoes in the area. One needs full body armor to avoid getting eaten, but in my opinion seeing hundreds of bats again is worth some temporary discomfort.

The Wisconsin Bat Program is part of the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation in Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The majority of Wisconsin Bat Program funding comes from grants and donations and much of our data are collected by volunteers. Thank you for your support.



2024

703 surveys
were completed in 2024, counting
27,301 bats



Wisconsin Bat Program | Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Roost Monitoring Report

House attics draw bat crowds

In 2024, attics housed the largest numbers of little brown bats.



Meet a couple of our bat species

Two bats that sometimes use artificial roosts in Wisconsin are the northern long-eared bat and silver-haired bat



Tricolored bat
Perimyotis subflavus

This little bat usually roosts in small colonies in leaf clumps in summer but is sometimes found in buildings. In winter they hibernate in warm caves and mines and are heavily impacted by white-nose syndrome



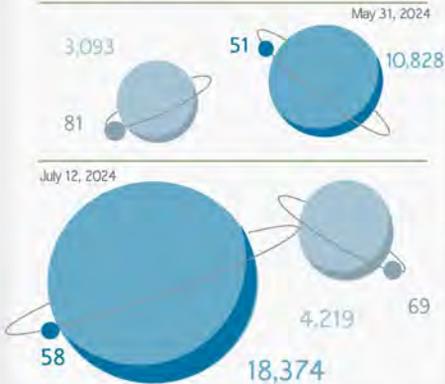
Silver-haired bat
Lasiurus noctivagans

This fancy bat likes to eat leafhoppers and midges, and roosts under peeling bark and occasionally on buildings. In winter, silver-haired bats fly south, but sometimes go into torpor in rock cracks and crevices in Wisconsin.

Great Wisconsin Bat Count

The goal was to count as many roosts as possible in a single weekend, now in its 10th year.

- Little brown bats counted
- Little brown bat surveys
- Big brown bats counted
- Big brown bat surveys

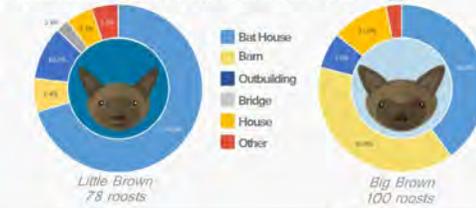


Where do bats live?

The bats we count live in a variety of man-made structures.



293 volunteers reached for their clicker-counters to help count bats this summer



05

May: the roost colony population steadily grows as bats return to their summer roost from overwintering habitat.

06

June: most of the colony is present at the roost, and female bats give birth to flightless young, called pups.

07

July: bat pups born in June begin to fly in mid-July and the number of bats emerging from the roost increases.

08

August: adults begin migration back to winter habitat where they will mate throughout the fall.

Number of roosts counted in 2024

Little Brown Bat



78 100



Big Brown Bat

Help survey bats!

Know a place where bats roost? Want to help count bats?

Contact Heather at heather.karakka@wisconsin.gov or visit watri.net/inventory/bats