



BATS:

Kentucky's Natural Resource

Bats are some of the most specialized and advanced animals on earth—they are the only mammals that can truly fly! They are a vital part of many ecosystems and are the major predator of night flying insects.

Did you know?

- ◆ Bats save the agricultural industry billions of dollars each year in pest control. A single Little Brown Bat can eat 1000 mosquito-sized insects per hour!
- ◆ Bats are not rodents. In fact, they are more closely related to primates!
- ◆ Bats only have one or two pups each year.
- ◆ Bats are long-lived. The world's oldest bat lived to be at least 41 years old.
- ◆ Bats can navigate around objects as fine as human hair using echolocation. They rely on this skill to fly at night and find food!
- ◆ There are more than 1000 species of bats worldwide. Kentucky has amongst the greatest diversity of bat species in North America, with 15 species that call Kentucky home.
- ◆ White Nose Syndrome has killed more than 5.7 million bats in Eastern North America. As a result, many bat populations are threatened, including those in Kentucky.



Myotis septentrionalis (Northern long-eared bat) with a moth. Photo: Brock Fenton



Do NOT attempt to touch or handle any bat.

Bats, like all wildlife, will bite when threatened or handled. If we learn to respect them, we can all reap the benefits of the bats that share our night skies.

Bat Conservation International <http://www.batcon.org/>

CDC www.cdc.gov/rabies/bats/education

To learn more about white nose syndrome, visit www.whitenosesyndrome.org

To report a sick bat, visit app.fw.ky.gov/BatReporting/



Kentucky Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.