

# Bat



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GARDEN EARTH  
NATURALIST

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ECO-SERVICE CARDS

# BAT

*Myotis* spp.

## IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ 3 - 4 inches long
- ◆ golden, gray-brown to gray depending on species
- ◆ “mouse”-like ears and a short snout
- ◆ fur-less membranous wings



### Where To Look

Bats are nocturnal and are best seen at dusk or dawn as they hunt for insects. Bats can be seen in forests, parks, fields and your backyard. They roost during the day in hollow trees, rock crevices and attics.

### Tracks and Other Signs

A sign that bats are roosting in your attic, or another location, is the piles of guano (bat poop) that accumulates under their roosting sites.



### Winter Adaptations

Bats hibernate in the winter, usually in caves or abandoned mine shafts. They can travel up to 300 miles to their winter roosting site.



### What It Eats

Bats eat many different kinds of insects which they catch while in flight. They use echolocation (high pitched sounds that bounce off objects) to find their prey at night. Echolocation can even determine the size of the insect and direction of flight.



### Predators and Other Dangers

Bats have few predators but owls, raccoons, and cats will eat bats when they can catch them.



### Did You Know...

Bats breed in the fall. Female bats gather to form large colonies with their young, and they will stay together for several months to raise and protect the young until they are able to fend for themselves.