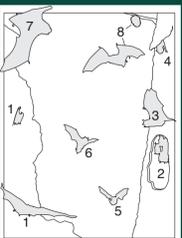


Bats of Eastern Woodlands



David Chapman '99



Nineteen species of bats live in eastern woodlands, playing a unique role in forest health. These invaluable allies consume vast numbers of insects, including pests ranging from moths and beetles to mosquitoes. Nevertheless, bats rank among America's most rapidly declining wildlife. Traditional threats include persecution, roost disturbance, and habitat loss. However, new threats have emerged within the last decade, including wind energy development, which primarily impacts migratory tree-roosting species, and White-nose Syndrome (WNS), a disease lethal to bats that hibernate in cool caves and old mines. WNS has spread rapidly across most of the eastern U.S. and Canada, killing millions of bats. Many of the bats that hibernate in caves or old mines roost in living and dead trees in the summer. A few have adapted to living in old buildings. When hunting insects, most rely on a mixture of younger and older forests, small forest openings, and the lush vegetation associated with streams. They all require clean, open water for drinking. Many species, including **1** big brown bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*), **2** little brown bats (*Myotis lucifugus*), **3** Indiana bats (*Myotis sodalis*), and **4** silver-haired bats (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*) form nursery colonies beneath loose bark or in cavities in large trees or snags. **5** Big-eared bats (*Corynorhinus rafinesquii* and *C. townsendii*) rear young in warm caves, rock shelters, or large tree hollows. Nursery colonies of the **6** tri-colored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) have been found in clumps of foliage. **7** Hoary bats (*Lasiurus cinereus*) and **8** red bats (*Lasiurus borealis*) rear their young alone in tree foliage. All bats require roosting places that are safe from human disturbance, especially during hibernation. Healthy forests need bats, and bats need healthy forests.



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