

White-nose Syndrome and Minnesota's Bats

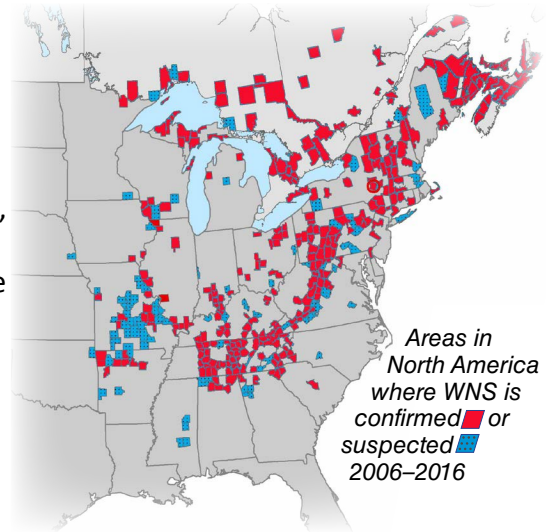
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Tricolored Bat showing signs of the fungus linked to WNS

White-nose Syndrome (WNS)

is a disease that is killing millions of bats in eastern North America. Infected bats often have white fungus growing around their muzzle—the “white nose” that gives the disease its name—as well as on their wings, tail and ears. As of winter 2014-15, bats in 26 US states and 5 Canadian provinces have WNS. **Minnesota's first confirmed cases of WNS were reported in March, 2016 at Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park.** Three additional states have detected the WNS-causing fungus, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*.



Four of Minnesota's hibernating species have been shown to be affected by WNS. These are Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*), Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), and Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*).



What are we doing to help bats?

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) is the lead agency for WNS response in Minnesota. Since 2009, MNDNR has been working in partnership with other state, federal, provincial and tribal agencies, national health laboratories, academic researchers, non-government organizations and local groups in an international effort to combat the disease.

MNDNR continues to monitor the health of the state's bat populations, and take measures to slow the spread of WNS to clean sites. The MNDNR's WNS website provides more information about the status of WNS in the region and WNS-related activities in Minnesota: www.mndnr.gov/wns

How can you help?

The MNDNR needs your help to watch for unusual winter bat behavior. We also want to know about any summer bat colonies. You can send bat information by online reporting, email or a toll-free phone message.

- Online Bat Observation Report: www.mndnr.gov/reportbats
- MBS email report: mbs.report@state.mn.us
- MBS toll-free report line: **1-888-345-1730**,

Or contact the MNDNR Minnesota Biological Survey bat specialists:

Gerda Nordquist: 651-259-5124, gerda.nordquist@state.mn.us

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Thanks for your help!