

White-nose Syndrome and Minnesota's Bats

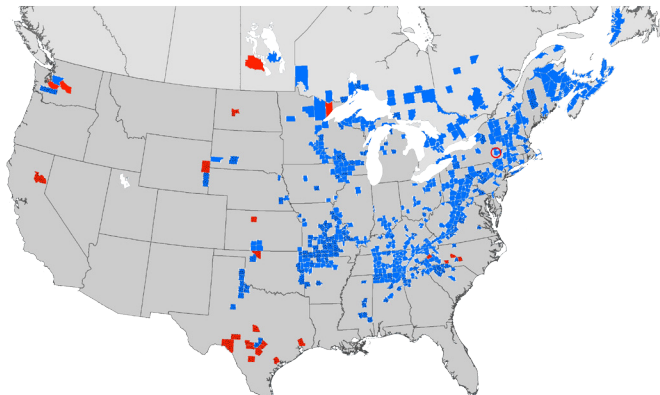
October 2019



A little brown myotis (also known as little brown bat) hibernating in southeastern Minnesota, shows WNS fungus growing on its muzzle, ears and wings.

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 summer 2018, bats in **33 states** and **7 provinces** have the disease. Another five states have the fungus that causes WNS.

Minnesota's bats have WNS. To date, the disease or fungus has been reported from **14 counties**. Bats hibernating in caves, mines and sheltered locations, like Soudan Underground Mine and Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park, are experiencing declines of 90% to 94% respectively. Although WNS is fatal to bats, it does not affect humans, pets, livestock or other wildlife.



Status of WNS spread by county and district
Red=WNS confirmed or suspected in 2019
Blue=WNS confirmed or suspected 2006-2018

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 staff continue to monitor the health of the state's bat populations, working to slow the spread of WNS to clean sites, and are exploring promising treatment applications.

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 locate healthy summer bat colonies near you. We are also interested in reports of any unusual bat activity (sick bats, multiple dead bats, day flights, etc.). You can send bat information to:

- Online Bat Observation Report: www.mndnr.gov/reportbats
- MBS toll-free report line: **1-888-345-1730**
- Or contact the state WNS contact: gerda.nordquist@state.mn.us

Thank you for your help!



MNDNR staff weighing a bat as part of summer roost site surveys.