

# *MassWildlife* Homeowner's Guide To Bats



*Massachusetts*

**Division of Fisheries & Wildlife**

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by

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3<sup>RD</sup> Edition

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## Key to the Bats of Massachusetts

A key is the most effective tool for identifying a plant or animal, in this case a bat. If you have never used taxonomic keys, be assured that they are easy to use. Each number offers you a choice. Begin with Number 1. If the bat does not fit the description for 1a, then it will fit the description for 1b. If, for instance, it matches 1b, follow the directions which state “go to 4a.” Continue determining which description fits, 4a or 4b, et cetera, until you discover the common name of your particular bat.

- 1a. Upper surface of interfemoral membrane (See Fig. 1) either completely or half covered with hair; tips of many body hairs white, causing frosted appearance ..... go to 2a
- 1b. Upper surface of interfemoral membrane without hair; body hairs do not have white tips ..... go to 4a
- 2a. Except for white tips, hair is rusty in color ..... RED BAT
- 2b. Except for white tips, hair is dark brown or black ..... go to 3a
- 3a. Interfemoral membrane completely covered with hair; forearm 1-3/4 to 2-1/4 inches long ..... HOARY BAT
- 3b. Only 1/2 of interfemoral membrane (nearest the body) covered with hair; forearm 1-1/2 to 1-3/4 inches long ..... SILVER-HAIRED BAT
- 4a. Hairs on back tricolored — dark at base and tip, but lighter in the middle ..... EASTERN PIPISTRELLE
- 4b. Hairs on back bicolored — dark at base and light at tip ..... go to 5a
- 5a. Forearm greater than 1-3/4 inches long ..... BIG BROWN BAT
- 5b. Forearm less than 1-3/4 inches long ..... go to 6a
- 6a. Face with black mask; ears black; forearm less than 1-3/8 inches long ..... SMALL-FOOTED BAT
- 6b. Face with no black mask; ears not black; forearm longer than 1-3/8 inches long ..... go to 7a
- 7a. Ears very long, when laid forward extend 1/16 inch (4mm) beyond nose ..... NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT
- 7b. Ears relatively short, when laid forward do not extend beyond nose or as much as 1/16 inch ..... go to 8a
- 8a. Hair glossy; calcar (see Fig. 2) not keeled ..... LITTLE BROWN BAT
- 8b. Hair dull; calcar keeled ..... INDIANA BAT

## Massachusetts Bat Species

Species of bats that occur in Massachusetts with their habitats, distribution and status of the uncommon species noted.

COMMON NAME	SPECIES	RANGE IN MASSACHUSETTS		HABITAT		
		statewide	probably statewide	SUMMER	WINTER	NOTES
Big brown bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	statewide	buildings, trees	buildings, caves, mines		
Little brown bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	statewide	buildings	buildings	caves, mines	
Northern long-eared bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	probably statewide	trees, building exteriors, rarely inside buildings	trees, building exteriors, rarely inside buildings	caves, mines	
Indiana bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	last recorded: 1939. Berkshire, Hampden & Worcester Counties	caves, mines, hollow trees, beneath tree bark	caves, mines	caves, mines	ENDANGERED (Federal & State)
Small-footed bat	<i>Myotis leibii</i>	known only from Hampden County	beneath tree bark; occasionally in buildings	caves, mines	caves, mines	SPECIAL CONCERN
Eastern pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus subflavus</i>	statewide	trees, rarely in buildings	caves, mines, rock crevices	buildings, trees, (migratory)	
Silver-haired bat	<i>Lasiorycteris noctivagans</i>	probably statewide	trees rock crevices	buildings, trees, (migratory)	migratory	
Red bat	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	statewide	tree foliage	tree foliage	migratory	
Hoary bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	statewide	tree foliage	tree foliage	migratory	



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