



**Natural Heritage  
& Endangered Species  
Program**

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*Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife*

**Eastern Red Bat  
*Lasiurus borealis***

State Status: **None**  
Federal Status: **None**

**SPECIES DESCRIPTION:** Eastern Red Bats have reddish or rusty-colored fur, with white-tipped hairs on their backs and breasts. Males have a bright brick red fur, while females have duller, buffy-chestnut fur, with much more white tipping of the fur than males do. Total length is about 112mm; the weight ranges from 9.5 to 16 grams. While all of the cave bats have only one pup per year, the tree bats, including the Eastern Red Bat, produce three or four pups a year.

**DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE:** Data on specific locations of Eastern Red Bat are not recorded by NHESP. Eastern Red Bats do not hibernate in Massachusetts; they are only known from the state during the summer and migration. Only a few breeding records have been documented in Massachusetts. It has been recorded from all 14 counties and from 52 of the 351 municipalities.

**HABITAT DESCRIPTION:** Eastern Red Bats are forest-dwellers in Massachusetts, although they may be seen feeding over water or at lights. Roosting is solitary, usually in thickly leafed parts of trees or other vegetation.

**THREATS:** As for most other tree bats, Eastern Red Bats are threatened by the precipitous decline in larger moths due to parasitism by the non-native wasp, *Compsilura concinnata*. In Massachusetts, the three tree bats, Eastern Red, Hoary, and Silver-haired, are the bats most frequently killed by wind turbines. Other threats include declines in other prey species, due to insecticide spraying or prey species habitat destruction, and outright destruction of bat habitat, due to conversion to development, intensive logging, or agriculture.

**REFERENCES:**

Whitaker, J. O., Jr., and W. J. Hamilton, Jr. 1998. *Mammals of the Eastern United States*. Third edition. Comstock Publishing Associates, Ithaca, New York.

*Updated 2015*

***A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan***

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Please allow the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program to continue to conserve the biodiversity of Massachusetts with a contribution for 'endangered wildlife conservation' on your state income tax form, as these donations comprise a significant portion of our operating budget.

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