

NOT-SO-SCARY SPECIES

WITH AMERICORPS MEMBER ALAYNA

THE BIG BROWN BAT (*EPTESICUS FUSCUS*)



The Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*) is the most common bat species in the state of Massachusetts. Due to media portrayals and misconceptions, many associate fear, nuisance, and disease with the presence of these small mammals.

Let's take a look into how bats may be more of a friend than a foe!

WHY DO WE WANT THEM?

The big brown bat is a vesper (insect-eating) species that controls harmful insect populations. Adult females consume their weight in insects every night, including crop pests like beetles and disease-carrying flying insects like mosquitos.

FUN BIG BROWN BAT FACTS!

- One of the largest American bat species, even though the largest individuals only weigh about an ounce!
- Colonies can range from 20 to 300 individuals!
- Fly up to 40 mph, making them one of the fastest bat species!
- Pups who survive their 1st year can live 20 years or longer in the wild!

WHY ARE THEY IN MY ATTIC?

Big brown bats prefer to roost in protected wood structures, such as hollow trees, shutters, and attics. Bat colonies may be removed from personal structures in May and from August to mid-October. Installing bat houses on property may decrease the risk of colonies invading unwanted areas!

SHOULD I BE SCARED OF THEM?

Short answer: No! Bats are not purposefully aggressive toward humans. **However, all wildlife should be given a respectful distance when being observed.** Bats have sharp teeth that they will use if grabbed improperly. While less than 1 % of bats contract rabies, it is also important to be aware of potential contraction of zoonotic diseases.

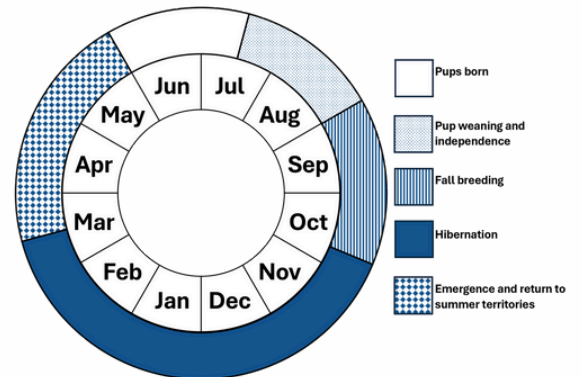
REFERENCES

- [HTTPS://WWW.MASS.GOV/INFO-DETAILS/BIG-BROWN-BAT](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/big-brown-bat) (THIS IS WHERE I GOT THE PHOTO)
- [HTTPS://WWW.USGS.GOV/FAQS/ARE-BATS-DAINGEROUS](https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/are-bats-dangerous)
- [HTTPS://WWW.DESERTMUSEUM.ORG/KIDS/BATS/BIG%20BROWN%20BAT.PHP](https://www.desertmuseum.org/kids/bats/big%20brown%20bat.php)
- [HTTPS://WWW.BATCON.ORG/BAT/EPTESICUS-FUSCUS/](https://www.batcon.org/bat/eptesicus-fuscus/)

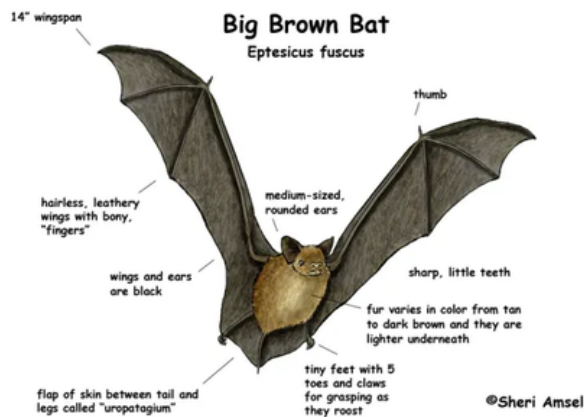
MORE PHOTOS IF THERE IS ROOM:



<https://www.batguys.com/services/bats/Bat-Article.html>



<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/big-brown-bat>



<https://animalia-life.club/qa/pictures/big-brown-bat>