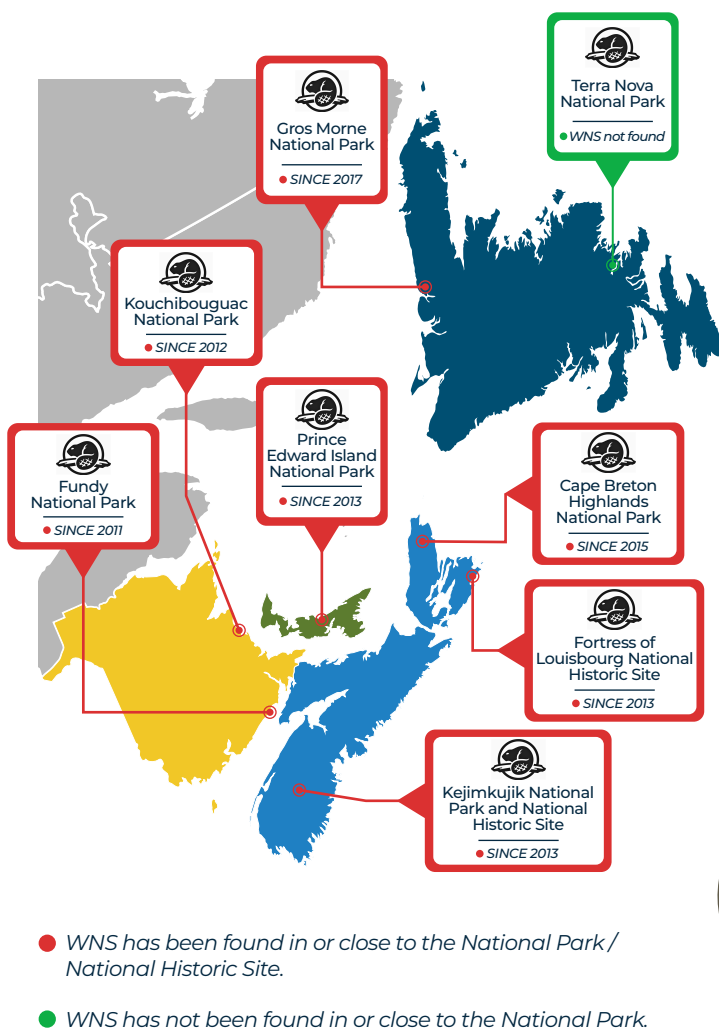


BAT CONSERVATION AT PARKS CANADA

Did you know that bats are still being detected using acoustic monitoring at Parks Canada despite huge declines in bat numbers from white-nose syndrome?

Bats are the only flying mammals. They are important to our well-being, the economy, and to the environment. One bat can eat between 600-1000 insects every hour — a natural form of pest control.



White-nose syndrome (WNS) is one of the worst wildlife diseases in modern history.

WNS is caused by a fungus. Bats infected with WNS have a white fuzzy appearance on their nose, wings and ears. Once the fungus appears within a hibernaculum site, over 90% of bats can be killed.



Little Brown Myotis with WNS. Photo by Hugh Broders



The fungus was first detected in 2006 in New York State and continues to spread across North America. White-nose syndrome was first found in Atlantic Canada in the winter of 2010 and continues to spread east and west across Canada.

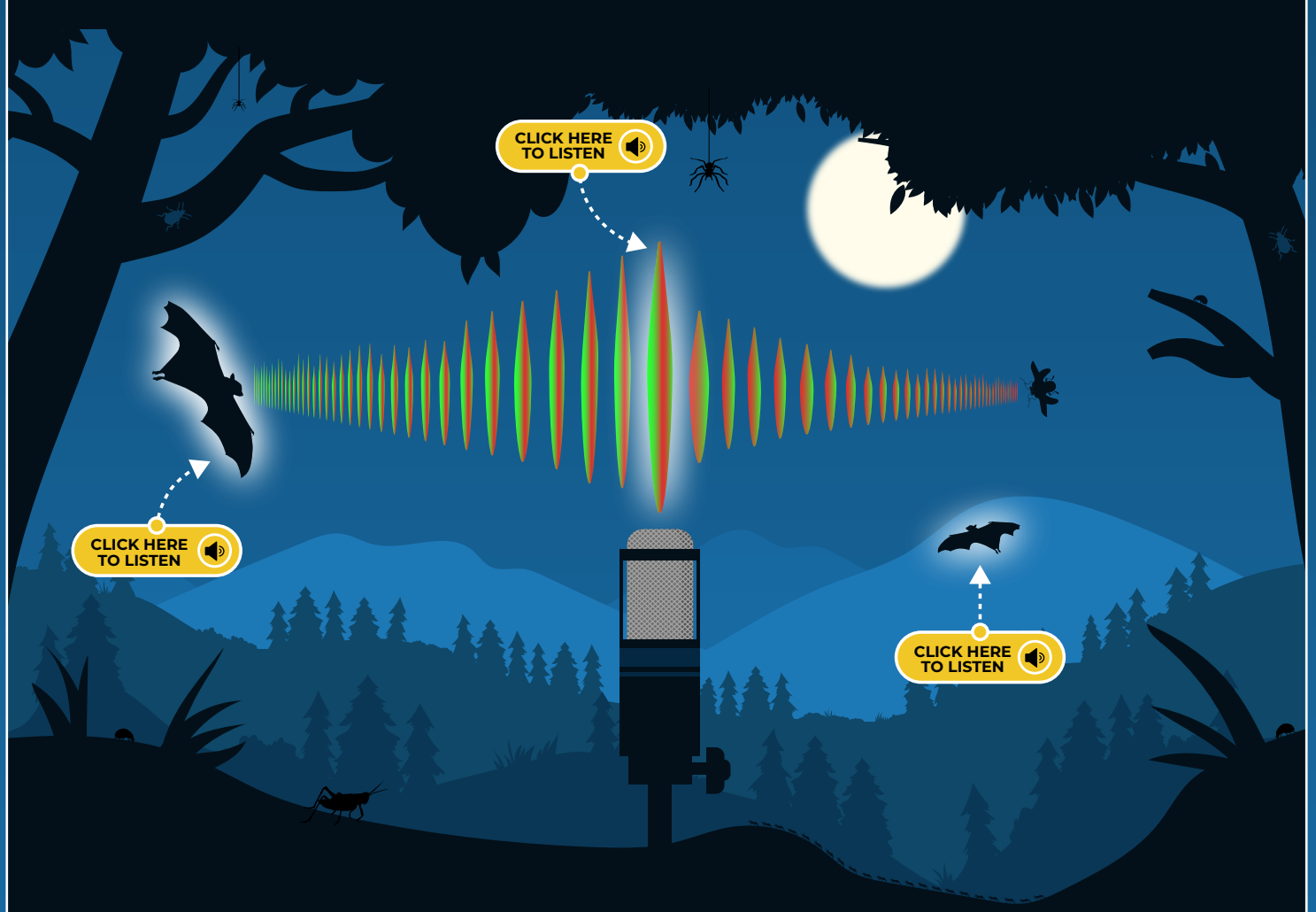
Have you seen these bats in Atlantic Canada? Three hibernating bats are endangered.

Below photos by the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative and Parks Canada.



The fungus grows in dark, damp places like caves used by hibernating bats in the winter. Bats infected with WNS wake up early from their hibernation. Cold and hungry, these bats often die. The Big Brown Bat is more resistant to WNS than other hibernating bats. WNS is not known to affect the region's bats that migrate.

Parks Canada is still detecting the Little Brown Myotis using acoustic monitoring even though some populations of these bats have declined upwards of 99% from WNS!



Bat voices bounce off of objects like an echo when the bats navigate and feed, helping them to avoid obstacles or catch prey during flight. Their calls, known as echolocation, can't be heard by humans so we need ultrasonic bat recorders to detect the bats. Each bat species has a different call signature or sonogram. Parks Canada uses acoustic monitoring to detect and ID bat species and their habitat.

Help protect bats in Atlantic Canada! Public sightings are key to helping identify trends that might help bats recover.



OBSERVE

If you spot a bat (alive or dead) in Atlantic Canada, report your sighting! (See but don't touch)



NOTE

The date/time, location, general description (size/colour), take a photo if able to do so safely.



REPORT IT

Call **1-833-434-BATS (2287)** and leave a message with your details.