



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Environmental Conservation Online System

Conserving the Nature of America

Enter Search Term(s):

- [ECOS](#)>
- Species Profile for northern long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)

northern long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)

[Federal Register](#) | [Conservation Plans](#) | [Petitions](#) | [Life History](#)

Taxonomy: [View taxonomy in ITIS](#)

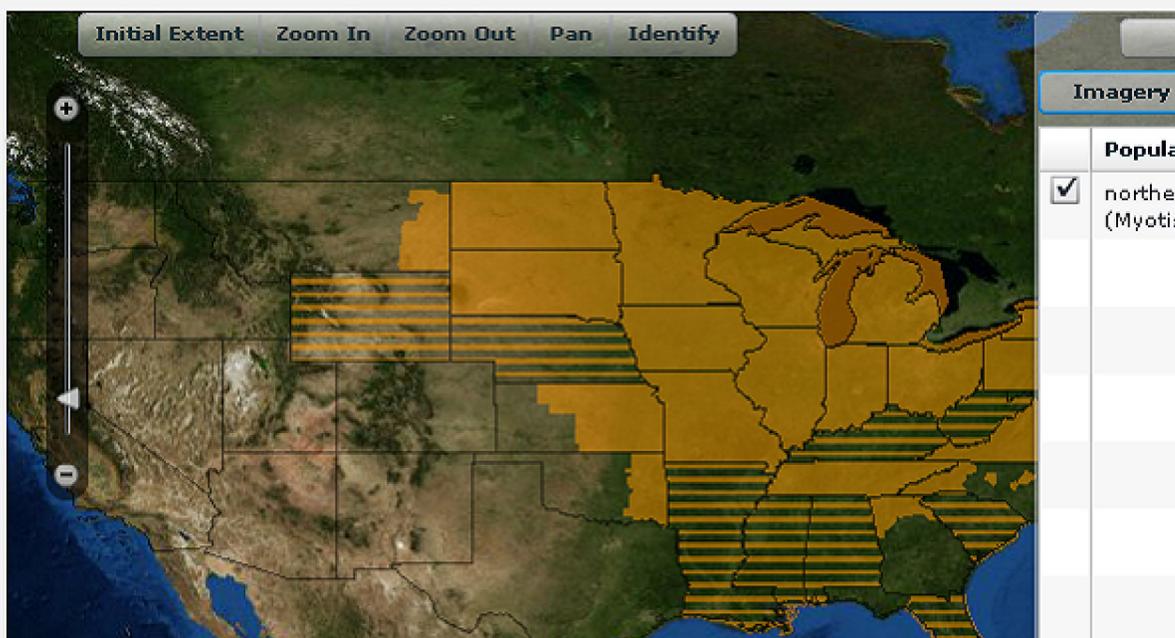
Listing Status: **Proposed Endangered**

General Information

The northern long-eared bat is a medium-sized bat about 3 to 3.7 inches in length but with a

*Search for images on
digitalmedia.fws.gov*

Map of Species occurrence



wingspan of 9 to 10 inches. As its name suggests, this bat is distinguished by its long ears, particularly as compared to other bats in its genus, *Myotis*, which are actually bats noted for their small ears (*Myotis* means mouse-eared). The northern long-eared bat is found across much of the eastern and north central United States and all Canadian provinces from the Atlantic coast west to the southern Northwest Territories and eastern British Columbia. The species' range includes 39 states. White-nose syndrome, a fungal disease known to affect bats, is currently the predominant threat to this bat, especially throughout the Northeast where the species has declined by up to 99 percent from pre-white-nose syndrome levels at many hibernation sites. Although the disease has not yet spread throughout the northern long-eared bat's entire range (white-nose syndrome is currently found in at least 22 of 39 states where the northern long-eared bat occurs), it continues to spread. Experts expect that where it spreads, it will have the same impact as seen in the Northeast.

- **States/US Territories** in which the northern long-eared Bat, is known to or is believed to occur: [Alabama](#) , [Arkansas](#) , [Connecticut](#) , [Delaware](#) , [District of Columbia](#) , [Florida](#) , [Georgia](#) , [Illinois](#) , [Indiana](#) , [Iowa](#) , [Kansas](#) , [Kentucky](#) , [Louisiana](#) , [Maine](#) , [Maryland](#) , [Massachusetts](#) , [Michigan](#) , [Minnesota](#) , [Mississippi](#) , [Missouri](#) , [Montana](#) , [Nebraska](#) , [New Hampshire](#) , [New Jersey](#) , [New York](#) , [North Carolina](#) , [North Dakota](#) , [Ohio](#) , [Oklahoma](#) , [Pennsylvania](#) , [Rhode Island](#) , [South Carolina](#) , [South Dakota](#) , [Tennessee](#) , [Vermont](#) , [Virginia](#) , [West Virginia](#) , [Wisconsin](#) , [Wyoming](#)
- **US Counties** in which the northern long-eared Bat, is known to or is believed to occur: [View All](#)
- [Additional species information](#)

Current Listing Status Summary

Status	Date Listed	Lead Region	Where Listed
Proposed Endangered			Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region (Region 3)

» Federal Register Documents

Most Recent Federal Register Documents (Showing 5 of 5)

Date	Citation	Page	Title
11-18-2014	79 FR 68657	68659	Endangered Species Status for the Northern Long-Eared Bat: Reopening of comment period
06-30-2014	79 FR 36698	36699	6-Month Extension of Final Determination on the Proposed Endangered Status for the Northern Long-Eared Bat
12-02-2013	78 FR 72058	72059	Listing the Northern Long-Eared Bat as an Endangered Species
10-02-2013	78 FR 61045	61080	12-Month Finding on a Petition To List the Eastern Small-Footed Bat and the Northern Long-Eared Bat as Endangered or Threatened Species; Listing the Northern Long-Eared Bat as an Endangered Species; Proposed Rule
06-29-2011	76 FR 38095	38106	90-Day Finding on a Petition To List the Eastern Small-Footed Bat and the Northern Long-Eared Bat as Threatened or Endangered

» Conservation Plans

No conservation plans have been created for northern long-eared Bat,

» Petitions

Most Recent Petition Findings (Showing 1 of 1)

Date	Citation Page	Title	Finding
06/29/2011	76 FR 38095 38106	90-Day Finding on a Petition To List the Eastern Small-Footed Bat and the Northern Long-Eared Bat as Threatened or Endangered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice 90-day Petition Finding, Substantial

» Life History

Habitat Requirements

During summer, northern long-eared bats roost singly or in colonies underneath bark, in cavities, or in crevices of both live and dead trees. Males and non-reproductive females may also roost in cooler places, like caves and mines. This bat seems opportunistic in selecting roosts, using tree species based on suitability to retain bark or provide cavities or crevices. It has also been found, rarely, roosting in structures like barns and sheds. Northern long-eared bats spend winter hibernating in caves and mines, called hibernacula. They typically use large caves or mines with large passages and entrances; constant temperatures; and high humidity with no air currents. Specific areas where they hibernate have very high humidity, so much so that droplets of water are often seen on their fur. Within hibernacula, surveyors find them in small crevices or cracks, often with only the nose and ears visible.

Food Habits

Northern long-eared bats emerge at dusk to fly through the understory of forested hillsides and ridges feeding on moths, flies, leafhoppers, caddisflies, and beetles, which they catch while in flight using echolocation. This bat also feeds by gleaning motionless insects from vegetation and water surfaces.

Reproductive Strategy

Breeding begins in late summer or early fall when males begin swarming near hibernacula. After copulation, females store sperm during hibernation until spring, when they emerge from their hibernacula, ovulate, and the stored sperm fertilizes an egg. This strategy is called delayed fertilization. After fertilization, pregnant females migrate to summer areas where they roost in small colonies and give birth to a single pup. Maternity colonies, with young, generally have 30 to 60 bats, although larger maternity colonies have been observed. Most females within a maternity colony give birth around the same time, which may occur from late May or early June to late July, depending where the colony is located within the species' range. Young bats start flying by 18 to 21 days after birth. Adult northern long-eared bats can live up to 19 years.

» Other Resources

[NatureServe Explorer Species Reports](#) -- NatureServe Explorer is a source for authoritative conservation information on more than 50,000 plants, animals and ecological communities of the U.S and Canada. NatureServe Explorer provides in-depth information on rare and endangered species, but includes common plants and animals too. NatureServe Explorer is a product of NatureServe in collaboration with the Natural Heritage Network.

[ITIS Reports](#) -- ITIS (the Integrated Taxonomic Information System) is a source for authoritative taxonomic information on plants, animals, fungi, and microbes of North America and the world.

[FWS Digital Media Library](#) -- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Digital Library is a searchable collection of selected images, historical artifacts, audio clips, publications, and video.

[ECOS Home](#) | [About ECOS](#) | [Contact Us](#)

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Home Page](#) | [Department of the Interior](#) | [USA.gov](#) | [About the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Notices](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [FOIA](#)

