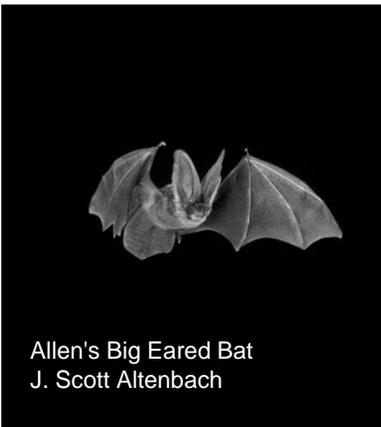


# Bats



## SHARE THE WILD:

Conflicts with bats usually occur when bats use human dwellings as roost sites. Bats rarely attack people, but can carry diseases such as rabies. Only a small percentage of bats carry rabies. But to be safe, any bat that behaves strangely or can be easily caught should be suspected of being rabid and should be avoided. Bats do not chew holes to make openings, but can enter buildings through existing holes  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter. Bats may also get into buildings through open doors, windows and loose or torn screens.

## Never handle a bat with your bare hands!

If a bat is trapped in a room, open an outside door, or window and screen, leave the area and allow the bat to leave on its own.

You can move the bat to a new location wearing thick, leather gloves.

Place a small box/can over the bat. To create a lid, slide a piece of cardboard between the can and the wall or curtain, enclosing the bat inside the container.

Take the bat outside and release the bat on a tree or other high object.

Do not leave the bat in the container; it will have difficulty crawling out.

**If you are uncomfortable approaching bats, or suspect it may be sick, do not attempt to capture it.**

**If a person is bitten:** Get medical treatment immediately. The wound should be washed with soap and water, and your doctor and the local health department should be contacted. Every attempt should be made to capture the bat alive using the technique described above. The captured bat should then be taken to the health department for rabies testing.

**Bats and pets:** Vaccinate your pets against rabies for their protection and yours. Do not let pets play with bats.

**Prevent bats from roosting in your home or property: Do not do this when bats have pups in May through September. Fall is the best time to seal these opening when bats are vacating roosts.**

Identify bat sign. Guano, or feces, will be crumbly and full of insect parts.

Cool attics with fans to make it uncomfortable for bats to take up residence.

Inspect the outside of the building for openings and gaps in siding, chimneys, and roof lines.

Seal the cracks and holes with caulking, hardware cloth, foam rubber, foam sealant, tarpaper, and chimney caps.

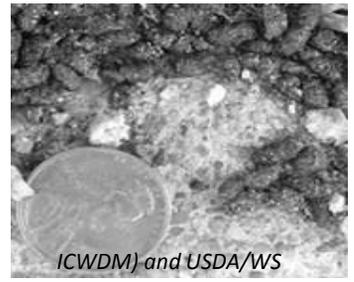
You can also use bird netting to place over the opening, stapled down at the top and the sides, with the base open. The bats can drop down the netting to leave, but cannot reenter the roost. Leave it in place for 4-5 days or until all the bats have left, then seal the holes.

## Alternative roosts:

Before you exclude bats from openings on your home or building, be sure to offer the bats other places to find shelter nearby. Hollow trees, unused out-buildings and bat houses are good alternatives. Bat houses need to be secured to a tree trunk or building at least 12-15 feet above ground and out of direct sunlight. It may take a few weeks to a few years for bats to take up residence. You can find plans for building bat houses on our website.

**Cleaning up after bats:** When handling bat guano, always wear a respiratory mask and rubber gloves.

## Bat House



Utah is home to eighteen species of bats; the only mammal capable of true flight. Utah bats eat mostly insects. Bats can be found throughout the state and roost in a variety of habitats, which may include caves, mines, hollow trees, leafy plants, rock cliffs and buildings. The largest Utah bat, the big free-tailed, has a wingspan of 17 inches but weighs less than 1 oz. The smallest, the western pipistrelle, is the size of a hummingbird and weighs 1/10 oz. A bat's fur varies in color from tan, brown, rust, to black. Bats are shy animals that use echolocation to find flying insects. Bats benefit humans by eating about 30–100% of their body weight in insects each night. Most Utah bat species are year-round residents of the state and hibernate during the winter. Some bat species migrate south and remain active all year. Migrating bat species breed in the spring. Hibernating bat species usually breed in the fall. In the late spring, female bats gather in large nursery colonies where the young, called pups, are born in May or June. Natural enemies of bats include bobcats, hawks, house cats, owls, raccoons, ringtails, snakes and weasels. Bats don't normally attack humans and contrary to popular belief they do not try to tangle in people's hair. A bat flying around in a room may appear to dive at people, but in fact, it is trying to regain flight speed and control.

**LEGAL STATUS:** Utah law protects all bat species. It is illegal to intentionally kill bats. Additional federal protection is extended to bat species on the Endangered Species List.

*Information compiled from USU Cooperative Extension Wildlife Damage Management Series*

# Be Wild Aware!

[wildawareutah.org](http://wildawareutah.org)



If you have problems with badgers that cannot be resolved by following the se tips consult a professional, licensed animal control company.

Visit this link:

[http://wildlife.utah.gov/habitat/nuisance\\_control.php](http://wildlife.utah.gov/habitat/nuisance_control.php)

