

Bats of Nebraska


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Nebraska has...

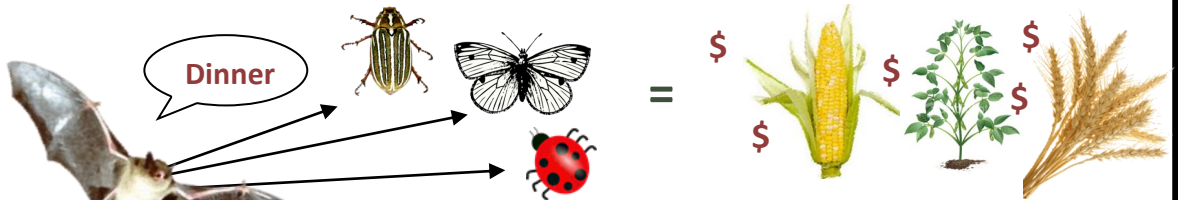


13 species of bats,
7 are listed as At-Risk,
1 is listed as threatened.



Bats roost in trees, caves, rock quarries, mines, cellars, storm drains, or buildings.

Bats limit insect pests in agricultural and natural systems...



...and are worth billions per year to agriculture in North America.

In the winter, bats migrate to warmer climates...



...or stay and hibernate.

Bats in Nebraska have 2 major threats...

Wind Energy



Bats can have fatal collisions with wind turbines.

2003



Evaluating bat deaths at wind turbines became a priority.

396,000



Upper estimate of bat mortalities from wind farms in the U.S. and Canada for 2012.

975,000



Average estimated number of bats killed at all wind facilities in the U.S. and Canada from 2000-2011.

White-Nose Syndrome

Hibernating bats are susceptible to White-nose syndrome (WNS), a deadly fungal disease.

2006



WNS first detected in a cave in New York.

22



Number of states with WNS. It is spreading from the northeastern U.S. WNS is not yet in Nebraska.

6.7 million



Upper estimate of North American bats deaths from WNS between 2006- 2012.

Precautions can minimize threats.

If planning a wind farm, use **pre-construction assessments** to determine which species of bats are present in the area at different times of day

Feather turbine blades below cut-in speed as a standard practice.

If bat mortalities occur at the wind farm, do not operate wind turbines during evenings with low wind speeds; **curtailing operations** can greatly reduce the number of bats killed at wind farms.

Respect cave and mine **closures**.

Sanitize clothes and equipment after handling bats or going into caves and mines.

If you find dead or dying bats, or if you observe bats with signs of WNS, **contact** the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (Mike.Fritz@nebraska.gov) and email the USFWS (WhiteNoseBats@fws.gov).



Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project

<http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/>

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