

# BATS FOUND IN HOUSTON

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## Tree Branch Roosters:

### **Eastern Red Bat**

4"-5", reddish brown. Roosts in foliage of deciduous trees.

### **Seminole Bat**

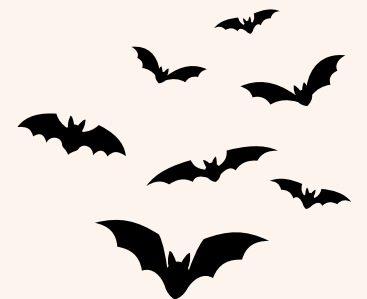
4"-5", fur is rich mahogany brown. Likes to roost in Spanish moss.

### **Hoary Bat**

4"-6", yellowish fur is heavily frosted. Largest local bat. Roosts in evergreens.

### **Northern Yellow Bat**

4". Roosts in dead palm leaves and Spanish moss.



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## Cavity Roosters (tree crevices, hollows):

### **Big Brown Bat**

4"-5", dark brown fur. Also roosts in attics and under house eaves.

### **Evening Bat**

3"-4", reddish brown to dark brown fur. Most likely user of bat houses.

### **Eastern Pipistrelle**

3"-3.5". Our smallest bat with reddish to light brown fur.

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## Uncommon Species

### **Silver-haired Bat**

4", fur nearly black with silver tips. Solitary, slow flier.

### **Free-tailed Bat**

4", brownish-grey. This is a subspecies of Austin's famous bat. Roosts under bridges and also uses bat houses.

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# PLANTS FOR BATS

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- Evening Primrose
  - Bee Balm
  - Purple Coneflower
  - Cardinal Flower
  - Foxglove
  - Asters
  - Agave
  - Red Yucca
  - Organ Pipe Cactus
  - Goldenrod
  - Datura
  - Angel's Trumpet
  - Phlox
  - Sunflowers
  - Yarrow
  - Salvia
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## **Things to Remember:**

Plant a diverse array of plants, you create a natural ecosystem in your backyard.

This attracts local insect populations, thus drawing bats for a reliable food source throughout the season.



# WHY BATS ARE IMPORTANT!

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- Bats are hard at work all around the world each night – eating tons of insects, pollinating flowers, and spreading seeds that grow new plants and trees.
- Bats are among the most gentle and beneficial of all mammals. In particular female bats are very caring mothers.
- Fruit and nectar eating bats help disperse seeds for plants like the saguaro cactus, agave, and fig tree depend on bats for their survival.
- Bats are under unprecedented threat from widespread habitat destruction, accelerated climate change, invasive species, and other stresses.

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# BAT FACTS & TIPS

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- Fewer than one half of one percent of bats contract rabies.
- Bats have excellent eyesight and use high frequency sounds to navigate.
- Providing suitable roosting habitat is the best way to encourage bats. Of particular importance is to let the lower dried palm fronds remain on palm trees. In addition, any kind of water feature.
- Thirty-three species of bats have been recorded in the state of Texas.
- Bats have been on Earth for more than 50 million years.
- Bats roost (sleep) during the day and we can find them in many different habitats including cavities in trees, behind the loose bark of trees, in tree leaves, on tree trunks, under bridges and in buildings.
- Bats are among the slowest-reproducing mammals on earth for their size - On average, most species only give birth to one pup per year.



# LEARN MORE AND DONATE

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- Bat Conservation International
- Houston Audobon Society
- Texas Parks and Wildlife
- [batweek.org](http://batweek.org)