

White Nose Syndrome

Biology

- The Geomyces fungus may be linked to severe bat mortality in upstate and eastern New York
- It is unknown if the fungus is a symptom or the cause of death in bats
- Live bats are dehydrated
- Dead or dying bats are emaciated from a loss of fat reserves
- Species impacted: federally protected Indiana bat, the little brown bat, the New York State protected small-footed bat, the northern long-eared bat, and the eastern pipistrelle



Problems

- 80-100% bat mortality has occurred in some caves
- Increasing pup mortality
- Bats consume copious amounts of insects during the summer, and their absence could alter the Adirondack ecosystem
- Greater insect populations adversely affect crop yields
- Risk to humans is not yet known

Symptoms

- White fungus grows on nose, wings, tail, and/or ears
- Bats fly outside during the winter in daylight hours
- Bats cluster near the hibernacula entrance



What YOU can do

- Observe all cave closures
- If a dead bat is on your property, remove it by placing your hand over a plastic bag to pick it up, then place it in a second bag and throw it in the garbage; wash clothes and hands well
- For more information: www.fws.gov/northeast/white_nose.html