



White Nose Syndrome

- White Nose Syndrome is a condition of bats named for the white fungus which grows on the face, ears, and wings of affected animals.
- Other signs include poor body condition (emaciation and dehydration) as well as behavioural changes (bats flying in daylight during winter).
- White Nose Syndrome has the potential to cause harm to Ontario's bat populations.

If you have observed any bats exhibiting signs of White Nose Syndrome, please contact the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre at 1-866-673-4781 or your local Ministry of Natural Resources office.



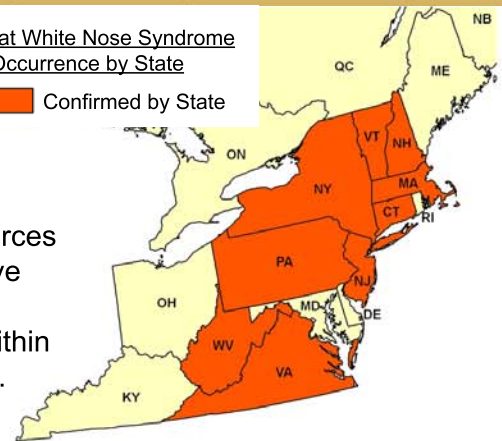
Pictures courtesy of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

- Bats are a unique and important part of Ontario's biodiversity.

- To better assess bat health, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre are monitoring bat populations within caves and abandoned mines. The best time to monitor these sites is between November and May when bats are congregated.

Bat White Nose Syndrome Occurrence by State

Confirmed by State



- To date, White Nose Syndrome has not been confirmed in Ontario. However, the ministry is investigating a site where bats appear to be showing signs of the syndrome.

- There are many unknown aspects of this condition, for example how it is transferred from one location to another. Therefore, we are asking the public to refrain from entering caves and abandoned mines unless they are managed tourist cave sites.

- Please contact the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre or your local Ministry of Natural Resources office if you encounter sick or dead bats.

- While relatively little is known about this emerging issue, the ministry is working with neighbouring jurisdictions to examine best management practices and to protect Ontario's bats.

May 22, 2009

Natural. Valued. Protected.