



Some of Delaware's Bat Research:



Multi-Agency Collaboration: Delaware is part of a nation-wide agency team of state and national biologists tracking White-nose Syndrome. This team plans research and projects designed to find answers about the disease.



DE Division of Fish and Wildlife and DE State Parks

are working together on WNS decontamination at Fort Delaware and Fort DuPont State Parks. (photo: DEFW)

Individual Bat Data Collection: Delaware is collecting information on the size and location of maternity colonies statewide. At some sites, biologists collect information like morphological measurements (weight, forearm length, condition),



DNA and hair samples for WNS analysis and other research. Bats are banded to identify that individual if

captured in the future. Surveys are also being conducted for uncommon species of bats (photo: DEFW)

Maternity Colony Monitoring – “The Bat Spotters:” In a statewide project, volunteers adopt and monitor maternity colonies. Emergence counts show any changes in the colony’s numbers during the summer and from year to year. This information will track changes in Delaware’s bat populations over time. (photo: Gary Cooke)



Acoustic Monitoring: Biologists and volunteers record bat calls across Delaware in summer. The detector is mounted on the roof of a car and records bats flying overhead. Data is used for state and regional projects. (photo: NYDEC)



Guidance: Provide guidance to people with bats in buildings, and Best Management Practices to Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators working with bats.

Boy Scouts: Provide guidance to Boy Scouts who are building bat boxes as a troop project or for Eagle Scout projects. (photo: DEFW)



Live and Dead Bats: Live and dead bats are examined by the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife for obvious and hidden signs of White-Nose Syndrome.

Endangered Species Monitoring: Species that are affected by White-nose syndrome may be added to the federal Endangered Species act (ESA) to better protect and support these dwindling populations. The northern long-eared bat is at the top of this list, and this species does live in Delaware. DFW biologists are working to better understand the habitat preferences of this species throughout the state, so that we can better protect it once covered under the ESA.