



BAT FIELD STUDY FACT SHEET

Little Brown Myotis.

This fact sheet provides information about VIA HFR's bat study program. It tells you how to get answers to your questions and give us your comments. Your insights will help shape the program.

What is a bat study?

A bat study records and examines the sounds bats make to try and determine if a habitat is being used by bats and, if so, what species are present. Bats in Canada include both migratory species (bats who travel from one habitat to another during different times of the year) and resident species that hibernate in caves.

Key terms

Bats

Bats are flying mammals that have forelimbs adapted for flight. Examples of bats commonly found in Canada include the little brown myotis and the tricoloured bat.

Hibernation

A state of minimal activity that some animals, including bats, experience. Hibernation is characterized by low body-temperature, slow breathing and heart rate and low metabolic rate. It most commonly occurs during winter months.

Why study bats?

Bat maternity roosts (where bats breed) and hibernation locations are provincially protected in Ontario through several pieces of legislation. Several bat species (e.g., little brown myotis and the tricoloured bat), as well as their habitat, are protected under the *Ontario Endangered Species Act, 2007* and the federal *Species at Risk Act, 2002*. By conducting bat studies to determine what habitats are used by bats and which species are present, HFR planners will better understand how these might change while building and operating the new railway, and what is needed to protect bats and their habitats, while determining a baseline for future studies.



Little Brown Myotis.



What do bat studies involve?



Available aerial photography and local historical information and observations about bats will be reviewed to identify forests and nearby buildings as potential habitats for bat maternity roosts and hibernation.



Recording units will be placed within the study area to record any bat sounds.



HFR planners will check on the units periodically to ensure they are functioning properly.

These studies will be complemented by other sources of information, including Indigenous knowledge (when provided).

When will bat studies occur?

Recording units will record during the nighttime from June to September 2024.

| Study Type | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Bats | | | | | | | | | | | | |



Tricoloured Bat.



Where are bat studies taking place?

The 2024 bat studies will take place along sections of existing railway routes in Ontario, from Twin Elm up to Ottawa and down to Vars, and in Québec near Laval to the 740 highway in Québec City.



Where can I learn more about HFR?

If you're interested in getting more information, or if you have a question or comment, please visit www.hfr-tgf.ca. You may also contact the HFR Team via email at: questions@hfr-tgf.ca

For more information on Canada's impact-assessment process, visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency.html>