

White Nose Syndrome- What's happening to our bats? Part 1 - Virginia Bats



Carol Zokaite*, Chris Hobson**, and Wil Orndorff**
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
*State Parks, **Natural Heritage Program
Dr. Karen Francl , Radford University

Why care about bats?

Bats comprise 1/5 of the world's mammal species

Bats are the primary night-time predators of insects



Seventeen species of bats have been documented in Virginia



8 bat species commonly use Virginia's caves

Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*)



Endangered
species

Gray Bat (*Myotis grisescens*)



Virginia Big-eared Bat

(*Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus*)



Virginia's State Bat

Little Brown Bats
Myotis lucifugus
in a Virginia Cave





Tri-colored Bat
(*Perimyotis subflavus*)



Eastern Small-
footed Bat
(*Myotis leibii*)

Big Brown Bat
(*Eptesicus fuscus*)



Northern Long-eared Bat

(*Myotis
septentrionalis*)



Virginia Tree Bats

Nycticeius humeralis – Evening Bat

Lasionycteris noctivagans – Silver-haired Bat

Lasiurus seminolus (resident?) – Seminole Bat

Lasiurus borealis – Eastern Red Bat

Lasiurus cinereus – Hoary Bat

Myotis austroriparius – Southeastern Bat

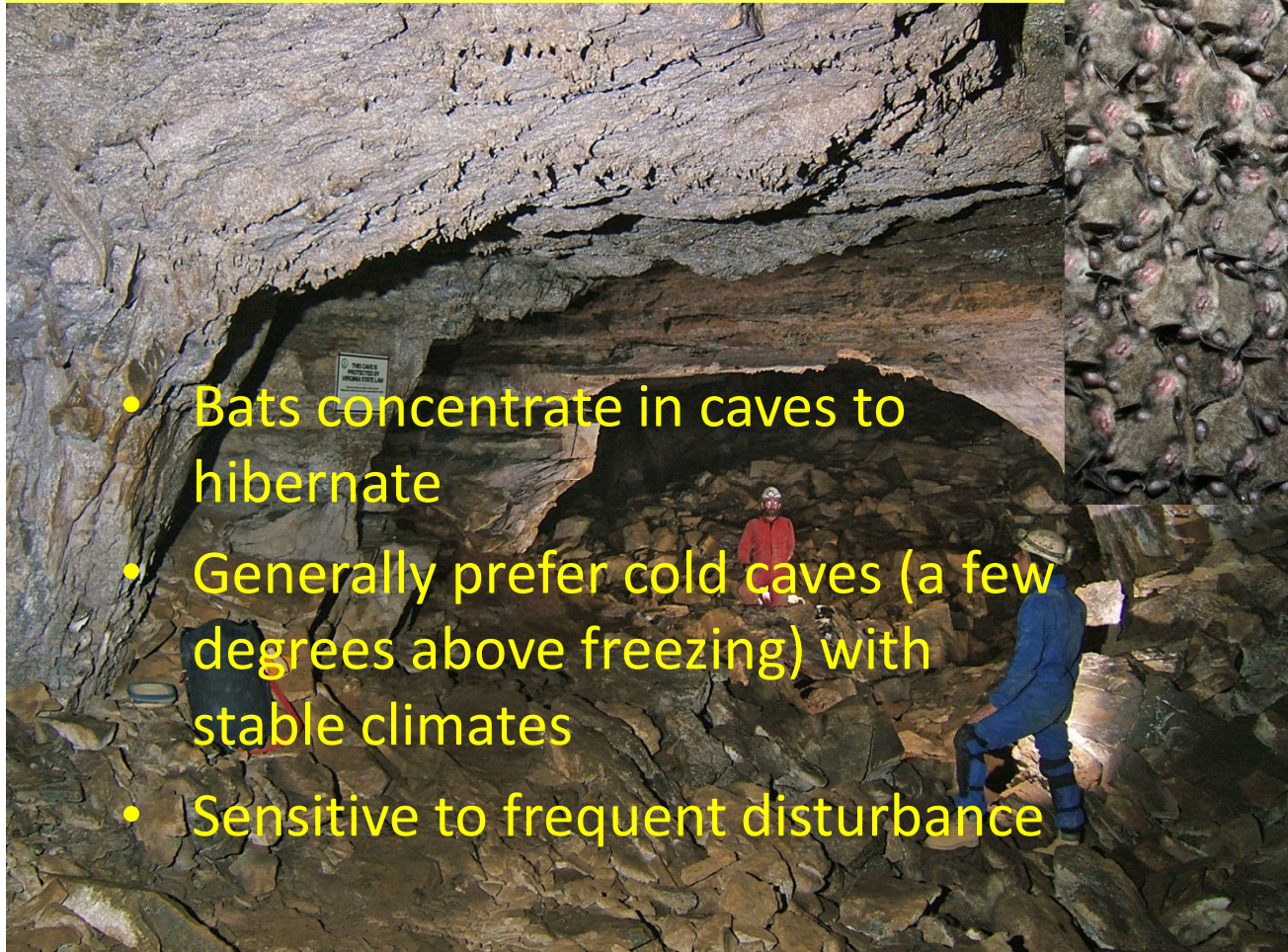
Corynorhinus rafinesquii macrotis –

Southeastern Big-eared Bat

Cave Habitats for Bats

Hibernacula in winter

Maternity and Bachelor colonies in summer



- Bats concentrate in caves to hibernate
- Generally prefer cold caves (a few degrees above freezing) with stable climates
- Sensitive to frequent disturbance



- Some bats migrate up to 800 miles between summer and winter roosts
- Most cave bats are loyal to certain caves and return year after year to the same cave, often to the exact location in the cave

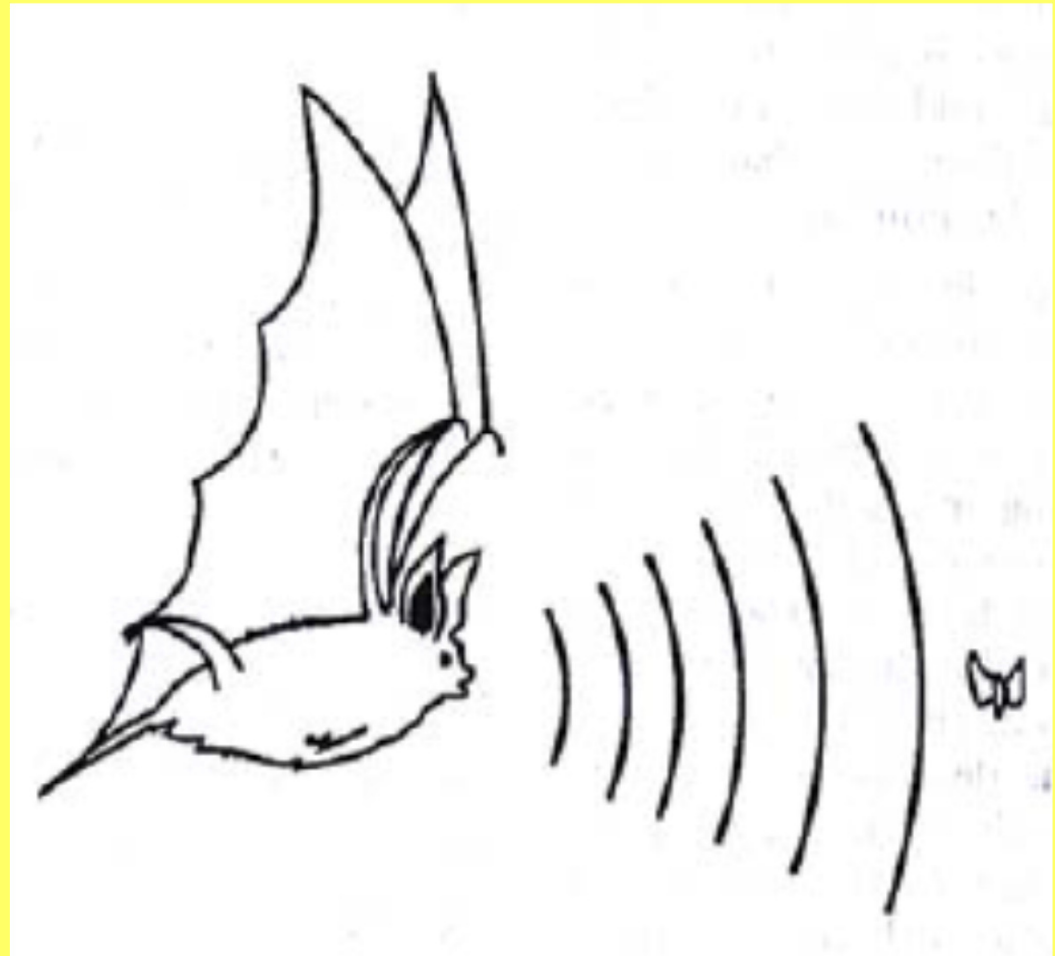
Bat Facts

- Over 1,000 different species worldwide
 - 47 species in the United States
 - 17 species in Virginia
- Primary predators of night-flying insects
 - Can eat half their body weight in bugs a night
 - May eat more than 3,000 insects a night
- Can see very well
- Only true flying mammal
- Use echolocation to find insects

Echolocation

Insect-eating bats use sound to identify sources of food and to navigate in the dark.

They use their *ears* to listen for *echoes*.



All bats have eyes and can see very well

Review a few of the Bat facts



Little Brown Bats



Virginia Big-eared Bat