

Instructions for Winter White Nose Syndrome (WNS) Monitoring in GA

Thanks for your interest in helping GA DNR collect information on Georgia's hibernating bats. WNS was first detected in 2013. Current information about WNS in Georgia can be found on the GA DNR WNS [webpage](#). The information you collect can help us to learn more about our hibernating bats and continue to monitor the spread of WNS in Georgia. Don't forget your clean caving protocols between visits to each cave. You can find the current protocol [HERE](#).

Using the Field Survey Data form (Download [HERE](#)):

The Winter Bat Hibernacula/Landscape White Nose Syndrome Surveillance Data Form is designed to be taken in the field and filled out during cave or mine visits. The form is designed to be easy to use but a few areas may need some clarification.

Survey Types

Entrance Survey:

You don't necessarily have to enter a cave to complete a WNS survey. It is important to check the entrance of caves for unusual bat activity related to WNS. This allows for non-cavers to get involved and, since it takes less time, more caves to be monitored without entering every site.

Full Survey:

If you enter a cave and observe bats, the information can be recorded on the second page of the field form. Here's some clarification on the species codes on the sheets:

CORA = *Corynorhinus rafinesquii* or Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat

LANO = *Lasionycteris noctivagans* or Silver-haired Bat

MYLE = *Myotis leibii* or Small-footed Bat

MYSO = *Myotis sodalis* or Indiana Bat

*COTO = *Corynorhinus townsendii* or Townsend's Big-eared Bat

MYAU = *Myotis austroriparius* or Southeastern Myotis

MYLU = *Myotis lucifugus* or Little Brown Bat

PESU = *Perymyotis subflavus* or Tri-colored Bat (formerly Eastern Pipistrelle)

EPFU = *Eptesicus fuscus* or Big Brown Bat

MYGR = *Myotis grisescens* or Gray Bat

MYSE = *Myotis septentrionalis* or Northern Long-eared Bat

UNK = Unknown species

* This species does not occur in Georgia

Don't worry if you can't identify the species of bats you see. Just put them in the UNK category. Knowing how many bats are using a cave is important information and will allow us to prioritize survey efforts in the future. Take photos during surveys when possible. We are especially concerned with finding the locations of clustered bats. Please record the locations, approx size of the cluster and locations whenever possible.

Using the WNS Cave Database Spreadsheet (Download [HERE](#)):

It is not necessary to send in data after every field survey **UNLESS** WNS suspect bats are reported in a county where it has not previously been detected. Current information about WNS positive counties in Georgia can be found on the GA DNR WNS [webpage](#). If any WNS suspect bats are found in new counties, immediately report it to GA DNR using the contact information below.

The WNS Cave Database Spreadsheet should be used to record information from field data sheets for submission to GA DNR. If no WNS suspect bats are found during the season, you can send in the database with all your information in the spring.

Please Report any Data

Even if bats aren't observed at a site, that information is important to us. We are trying to better understand our hibernating bats in Georgia. Information on where bats aren't is nearly as important as information on where bats are. Reports from any cave visits can be included on the spreadsheet. Just indicate that no bats were observed.

Spreadsheets and completed field forms can be submitted to Trina Morris using email or mailing address below.

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