

Georgia DNR Bat Roost Monitoring Instructions

Download the Georgia DNR Bat Summer Maternity [Roost Monitoring Data Form](#) or enter your data on your computer, tablet or mobile device [here](#).

Page 1 (paper form): Includes all the information about the surveyors, landowners and the bat roost. You only need to fill this out once each season if using the paper form. It's important to contact the landowners and get their approval before counting. Location information is important. If you have a GPS unit, please record the latitude, longitude and datum the unit is set on if using the paper form. If using a mobile device, be sure you enable location settings or manually choose your location. Please also print a copy of a map if using the paper form. If you do not know the datum, write unknown. If you have no access to a GPS, please copy a map with the site circled and return with the form. Record the species using the roost ONLY if known, otherwise indicate unknown. The last portion of the form collects the landowner's contact information (if different from your own).

Page 2 (paper form): Emergence Count Data Form: Use this form for recording the actual bat count. We ask that you complete these counts twice each season. You can count as many times as you like, just fill out a table on page 2 each time if using the paper form.

Record the:

- a. **Date**
- b. **Sky and wind codes** (codes are on bottom of form),
- c. **Start temperature**
- d. **Start & end time**
- e. **Total bats counted and technique used**, which will usually be visual. Please make a note of other surveyors in comments.
- f. In notes section, please record any **unusual observations** as well as the **time the first bat emerges**. The form page has space for 2 counts. If you conduct more than 2, please copy more forms.

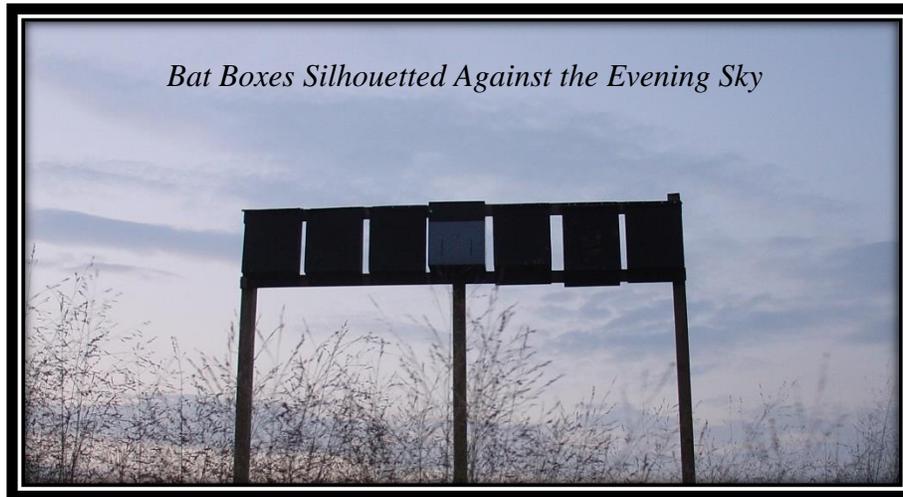
Completing the Survey

It is best to do some scouting before doing a survey to determine where bats are exiting.

1. To determine the primary exit, look for discolored areas in and around chimneys, eaves, and soffits along with concentrations of guano beneath the exit. You may find that you need help in covering all the exits (front and back of a structure).
2. Please try to survey when starting temperatures are above 60°F and wind and sky codes are 3 or less. Bring a thermometer, paper and pencil and the emergence form or mobile device with the link to the application.
3. Arrive about ½ hour before sunset.
4. Locate where the bats are exiting the structure and count them as they exit. Some may re-enter, especially when there are pups inside. Try to keep track of this. If you find that you have a mega-colony that numbers in the thousands, you may need to tally them by the 10's as they exit.
 - There are free hand- tally apps available for smartphones that will make counting much easier. You can also purchase an inexpensive hand-clicker for tallies.
5. Position both yourself and helpers for easy viewing of bats exiting. It is best to be in position to have the bats silhouetted against the sky for easier viewing.
6. Please remember to ask permission of the landowner and enjoy the experience. Bring the kids and enjoy a beautiful summer evening and let the bats take care of those pesky insects!

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Tips and Tricks for Counting Bats



The best time to count the bats is when they fly out in the evening. Use tick marks, a clicker or a smartphone app to assist with counting. Do not use lights when completing emergence counts! The lights may disturb the bats and they may not exit the roost.

Sit or stand so that you can see the bats fly out of the roost opening against the night sky. It is much easier to see them with a light backdrop (see picture above).

When counting at a building, sit so that you are looking along the side of the wall not straight on.

Bats should begin exiting 15-25 minutes after sunset, and larger colonies will continue to exit for about 30-40 minutes. Show up early, get set up and wait quietly for them to start. It should not take more than an hour to complete most counts.

Not all the bats will exit during the survey. A few will remain in the roost. To tell when you can stop counting, wait for a five-minute period, and if no bats have exited, you have completed your survey.

Thank you again for participating in this important survey of your wildlife resource.

At the end of each summer, completed paper forms can be emailed or mailed to:

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Wildlife Conservation Section
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