

Volunteer Bat Swabbing Instructions

Before entering cave:

Take out small red topped Zip-lock and label it with the date and cave name. Do not take this into the cave. Have Lysol wipes ready to decontaminate all sampling vials used in the cave.

Swabbing Instructions:

Select bats that are within arm's reach, preferably from different areas of the cave. Do not remove bats from substrate. The volunteer swabbing bats should wear thick leather or synthetic protective gloves under the provided disposable gloves. Swab bats gently to avoid disturbance and hold hand under bat in case it falls. If bat does fall, only touch the bat with doubly gloved hands, and place it carefully on a safe ledge near where it was found.

1. Use a fresh pair of disposable gloves during each swab sample.
2. Remove swab from sterile packaging and dip it in the sterile water dipping vial (PINK).
3. Firmly rub the swab back and forth along the bat's forearm 5 times, twirling the swab as you go.
4. Rub the same swab along the bat's muzzle 5 times (do not return swab to dipping vial).
5. Place only the head of swab into storage vial (BLUE or CLEAR) and break off handle so only the cotton tip remains in the vial. If you have a metal swab handle, you will have to bend it back and forth a few times to get it to break off.
6. Close storage vial tightly and record appropriate information on attached data sheet.
7. After leaving the cave and decontaminating the outsides of all vials with Lysol wipes, place them in the small red topped Zip-lock bag. Keep each cave sampled in separate Ziploc bags to avoid cross contamination!
8. Freeze the vials for storage until you can return to DNR. Remember to send the data sheets and any photos you took along with the vials.

Thank you for your help! Please send samples to the following address and feel free to contact me with any questions. If you find a site that shows obvious signs of WNS, please call right away so we can process the samples quickly.

Trina Morris

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To download these forms, get more information about surveys and to view a powerpoint with photos and ID tips for bats, visit our website at <http://www.georgiawildlife.com/WNSMonitoring>

Characteristics of Eastern Bats

Species	Fur	4arm Avg (mm)	Weight (gr)	Foot (mm)	Ear (mm)	Tragus shape	Calcar	Other ID Traits	Roosting Habits
Brazilian Free-tailed Bat (<i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>) TABR	Short, brown to dark gray	43	11-14	8.6	19-20			Tail free from membrane	Large Clusters
Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat (<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>) CORA	Gray or brown above and whitish below	41	8-14	8-13	27-37	Broad and Long		Huge ears	Solitary or V. Small Groups
* Big Brown Bat (<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>) EPFU	Long brown - two toned black base	47	13-25	10-12	17-18	Broad and Rounded	Keeled	Large, prominent glands on muzzle	Solitary
* Eastern Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus subflavus</i>) PESU	Sandy brown to orange on back - tricolored,	33	4-7	8-10	13-15	Blunt and Straight	Not Keeled	Pink forearms, black wings	Solitary
* Gray Bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>) MYGR	Solid gray above, paler below	43	7-12	9-12	14-16	Sharp	Not Keeled	Wing attached to ankle, all gray, rear claw has a notch in it.	Small to Large Clusters
Southeastern Bat (<i>Myotis austroriparius</i>) MYAU	Woolly dull, little contrast between base and tips, yellowish to gray above, orangeish in mid-late summer, white below	40	5-12	10-13	13-16	Slender Pointed	Not Keeled	Gray-black wings, long toe hairs	Small to Large Clusters
Little Brown Bat (<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>) MYLU	Long glossy tan to dark brown above, gray to buff below	38	7-8	8-11	13-16	Slender Pointed	Not Keeled	Long toe hairs (beyond claws), contrasting wings with body,	Small Tight Clusters
Indiana Bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>) MYSO	Fine fluffy, not glossy dark gray to brown above, grayish below	38	5-11	7-10	11-16	Slender Pointed	Keeled	short toe hairs, pink nose, uniform in color, wings do not contrast with body. Never has condensation in winter.	Small to Large Tight Clusters
* Northern Long-eared Bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>) MYSE	Not glossy, brown above, grayish below	35	5-10	7-10	16-19	Very Long and Slender	Keeled	Large propatagium, ears extend beyond nose (3mm)	Solitary or V. Small Groups
Eastern Small-footed Bat (<i>Myotis leibii</i>) MYLE	Blackish brown above, paler below	32	4-6	6-8	13-15	Sharp	Sharply Keeled	Black mask, longish tail (33 mm)	Solitary

* Most Likely to be seen

Volunteer Bat Survey Data Sheet

Investigator Name(s): _____ Date: _____

Phone/Email: _____

Site Name: _____ County: _____

Town: _____ Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Time in: _____ Time out: _____

Bat Sample	Species (if known)	WNS visible?	Location in cave	Notes / Photos?
#1.				
#2.				
#3.				

Final count of all bats (If possible, please try to take photos of each species seen):

Species	UNKNOWN	PESU	EPFU	MYSE	MYGR	OTHER(_____)	OTHER(_____)
Total #							

Percent of bats visibly affected by WNS:

_____ < 10% _____ 10 - 25% _____ 25 - 50% _____ 50 - 75% _____ > 75%

Species Code Key:

PESU	Tricolored (eastern pipestrelle)	MYSE	Northern Long-eared
EPFU	Big Brown	MYGR	Gray
CORA	Rafinesque's Big-eared	MYAU	Southeastern
TABR	Brazilian Free-tailed	MYLU	Little Brown
MYSO	Indiana	MYLE	Eastern Small-footed

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Volunteer Hibernaculum Survey Data Sheet

Site Description: (describe features – water, multiple entrances, crawling required, etc.)

Site layout: (please draw general layout of site with important areas labeled. Include printed map if possible.)

Approximate physical size of hibernaculum:

- Very Small: blunt, dead end passage < 10 m in length
- Small: one or two short passages > 10 – 100 m in length, may have a single room
- Medium: multiple rooms connected by 2 or more passages, or passages > 100 m in length
- Large: many rooms, passages, and levels, total areas is > km² but less than 5 km²
- Very Large: many rooms, passages, and levels, extensive passages, > 5 km²

Is it possible that GA DNR personnel could visit this site if necessary? YES / NO

Describe the accessibility of the site:

- Easy
- Moderate
- Difficult

Is vertical gear required for this site? YES / NO

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