

Photo by Jason Headley

*est. 2013*

# NOVA SCOTIA BAT REPORTS

*Celebrating 10+ years!*

**REPORT ALL BAT SIGHTINGS TO:  
[www.batconservation.ca](http://www.batconservation.ca)**

Scan this QR  
code to share  
your observation!



**To those who have reported a bat sighting in the past 10 years,  
we want to celebrate you!**

Thank you to everyone who shared their observation to [www.batconservation.ca](http://www.batconservation.ca) or the hotline 1-866-727-3447. You are receiving this email because you contributed to the NS Bat Sighting Database sometime between 2013-2023. When this reporting site was initiated the goal was to pool the collective wisdom of Nova Scotians about where they were still seeing bats and what sites remained important to the population after the impacts of White Nose Syndrome.

Given we now have 10 years of bat reports, we want to share with you what we have learned from these reports. Over the past decade, reports of bats in Nova Scotia have helped identify surviving bats, colonies of reproducing females and their young, and significant sites used by bats each year. These observations have helped connect bat biologists with key sites to study bat roost characteristics, the deadly bat disease white-nose syndrome and monitor long-term trends of summer populations.

The collection of public bat reports is an amazing way of relying on community science to help conserve at-risk bat species. We have learned more about the types of boxes preferred by bats, where and when the white-nose syndrome-causing fungus can be found, and where surviving colonies persist. Although bat populations have not rebounded in Nova Scotia, we have collectively researched baseline populations to monitor for potential future recovery. The best things that we can do for the remaining population is to ensure important sites are preserved and reduce other sources of mortality that provide stress on the already reduced population.

We still want to hear from you if you see a bat, so please continue to report your sightings. Please direct all sightings to [www.batconservation.ca](http://www.batconservation.ca). If you cannot report to the website, you can contact us at [bats@merseytobeatic.ca](mailto:bats@merseytobeatic.ca) or 1-866-727-3447.

Sincerely,

The Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute



# NOVA SCOTIA BAT REPORTS

*Celebrating 10 years!*

**2013-2023:  
10 YEAR UPDATE**



## OUR GOAL

Collect bat observations across Nova Scotia and use this data for local conservation efforts.



## >5,750 REPORTS

We receive an average of 500 bat reports per year with a grand total of 5,750 reports as of 2023.



## PROJECTS

Researchers and private landowners work together to study bats at bat boxes and guano studies.

## ABOUT US

The Mersey Tobetic Research Institute (MTRI) began collecting bat sightings in 2013 when local populations declined by 95%. After discovering a small number of surviving bats, MTRI initiated their bat program to promote conservation through research, monitoring, and public education. Although bat populations remain low, we continue to receive hundreds of reports each year.

## WHY ARE BATS AT RISK?

Bats were once widespread locally but now face many threats. Recent declines are due to the spread of a disease called 'white nose syndrome' and an increase in wind energy development. Researchers are working to understand how bats can survive the disease, and how adjustments to wind energy operations can minimize the impact.



### LITTLE BROWN BAT

Historic and current data suggests this bat is still the species you are most likely to encounter locally.



### PHOTOS

Public photos have provided records of less common species e.g., migratory bats.



### BAT BOXES

Interested in a bat box? Stay tuned for forthcoming recommendations!

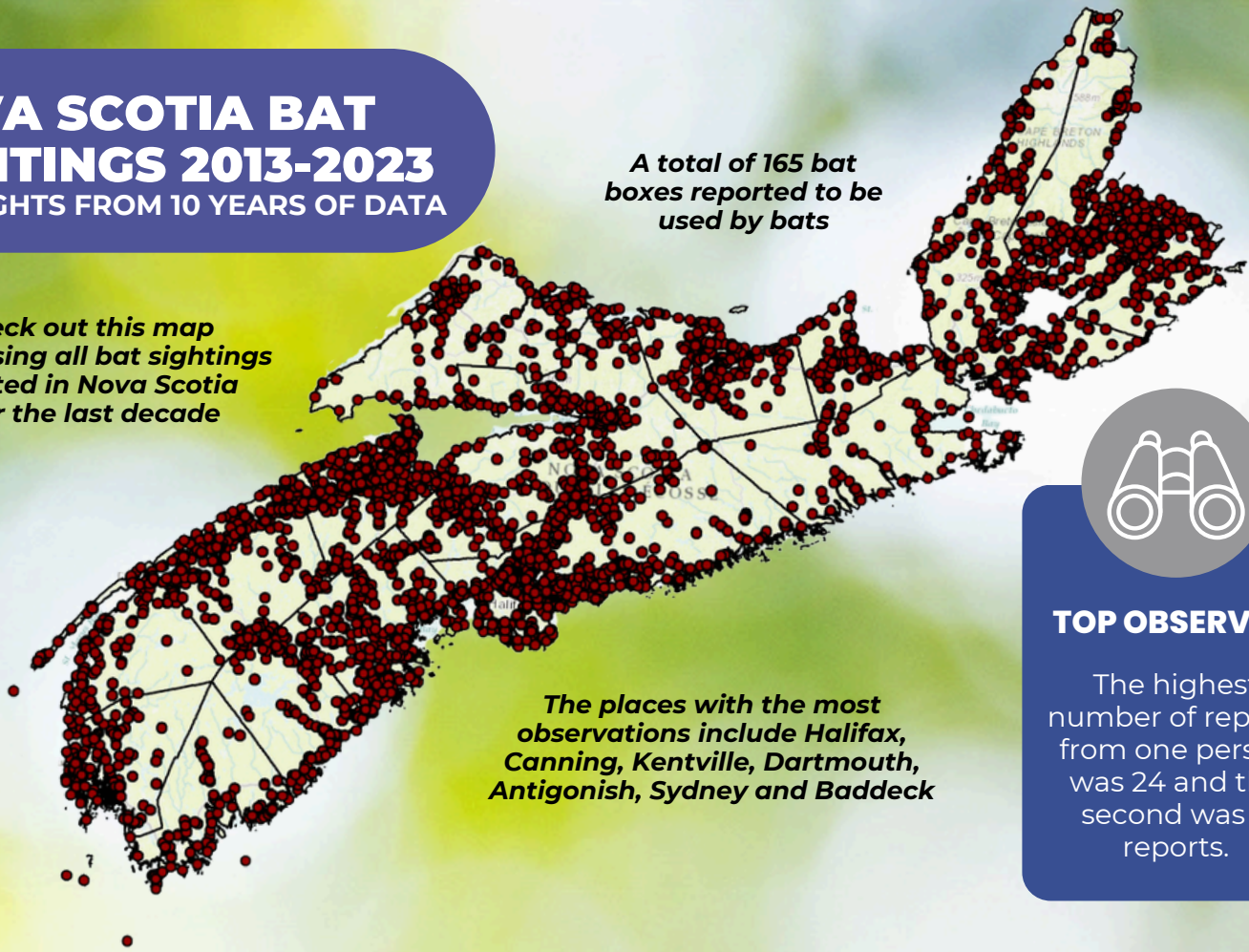


# NOVA SCOTIA BAT SIGHTINGS 2013-2023

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 10 YEARS OF DATA

A total of 165 bat boxes reported to be used by bats

Check out this map showcasing all bat sightings reported in Nova Scotia over the last decade



The places with the most observations include Halifax, Canning, Kentville, Dartmouth, Antigonish, Sydney and Baddeck



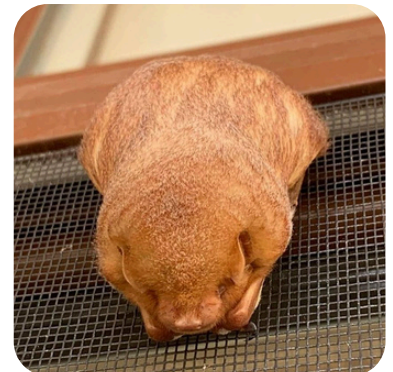
## TOP OBSERVER

The highest number of reports from one person was 24 and the second was 8 reports.



## PHOTO AWARDS

The award for best pose, best photo, first photo, best hair and fluffiest bat (top left to bottom right).



## MERSEY TOBEATIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE



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Photos submitted to [batconservation.ca](http://batconservation.ca) by Rick Whitman, Ronnie d'Entremont, Rick Ballard, Ryan Eaglestone and Nicole.

**Thank you to everyone who submitted a bat report!**