

## Canada Bat Box Project Emergence Count protocol

Thank you for your assistance with the Canadian bat box project which aims to learn more about bats in Canada and to promote their conservation. As part of this initiative, we are determining what types of bat boxes are used by bats in Canada.

You can shine a light into your bat box in June during the day to determine if bats are present. Do your best to conduct FOUR bat counts (*one* between June 1 – 21, *one* between July 5 – August 1, *one* between August 5 – 31, and *one* between September 10 – October 10). **If you do ONE count, do it before June 21.** Bat pups are usually born after this time and so obtaining an accurate count of adult bat populations must be done prior to the end of June. If you do not see any bats during your first count or do not see any bats in your box during the day, your bat box may still be used in the latter half of the summer or during the fall. You are welcome to do more than four counts at your box if desired. The more emergence counts you can do the better as occupancy of boxes can vary quite a bit over the active season (May - October, with the most important period in June-July). On really hot days please take a look at your bat box to see if bats are outside the box, on the ground, or roosting at the bottom of the box. Bats usually roost inside bat boxes at the top unless it gets too warm.

If you find bat carcasses under your bat box, please mail them to us. Instructions here:

<http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/docs/CWHC%20Shipping%20and%20Handling%20Instructions.pdf>

To do a bat count:

- Arrive at your bat roost 15 minutes before sunset (bats will begin to emerge up to 30 minutes after sunset, depending on the species).
- The weather should be calm with low wind speed and no rain.
- Sit or stand outside so that the bats' exit point is visible from a comfortable distance; try to position yourself so that the bats' exit point is silhouetted against the sky.
- Tally the bats as they fly out for their nightly insect-eating. Try not to re-count bats that fly back into the roost.
- Stop the survey 30 minutes after seeing the last bat fly out, or 1 hour after sunset if you see no bats
- Do not enter bat roosts or handle the animals.

Submit your bat count results to the appropriate organization listed below, even if you do not see any bats:

If you live in British Columbia, email results to the BC Community Bat Program [bcbats@gmail.com](mailto:bcbats@gmail.com)

If you live in Alberta, email to Alberta Community Bat Program [roostreports@albertabats.ca](mailto:roostreports@albertabats.ca)

For all other provinces submit your bat count results to [www.batwatch.ca](http://www.batwatch.ca)