

# Eastern Red Bat

*Lasiurus borealis*

## Description

Eastern red bats are medium-sized bats ranging from 93 to 117 mm in total length, and weighing between 7 to 13 g. Their fur varies in colour from brick red to yellowish-red, with white-tipped fur giving them a frosted appearance. Males tend to have a redder colour compared to females.

These bats hunt insects like moths and beetles near light sources at dusk, attacking prey approx. every thirty seconds with a forty percent success rate. Their hunting involves dramatic aerial pursuits, often mistaken for aggression towards humans near rural street lights.

They live in coniferous forests as well as mixed forests. They prefer to roost near the tops of trees suspended from branches, where they can easily be mistaken for dead leaves or cones.

It is only recently that Eastern red bats are found in Alberta. In the fall, the bats migrate towards the central and southern United States, and even as far as Mexico.

## FUN FACTS

- They have small skulls with distinctive teeth arrangements, including a tiny cone-shaped upper premolar.
- They are vulnerable to being caught in barbed wire, trapped on road oil, colliding with lighthouses, and getting caught in automobile radiator grills .
- Red bats face predation from birds of prey and various species of jays

If you find an injured or orphaned wild animal, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at 403-214-1312, for tips, instructions and advice.

