

# Support **WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME** Research

*Bats need your help!*

Since the winter of 2006-2007, hundreds of thousands of bats have been killed by white-nose syndrome (WNS), so-named because a white fungus is often observed on affected bats' faces. It remains unknown whether the fungus is a direct cause of bat mortality. It is hypothesized that the fungus may be causing bats to itch and arouse too frequently during hibernation, expending precious energy reserves and depleting fat levels. Bats are starving to death.

It is hoped that by focusing research on potential causes of WNS, its devastating effects can be stopped, or at least slowed. WNS has spread more quickly than researchers thought possible, and **many colonies have declined by 90-100%**.

Bats are important to our ecosystems; they eat moths and other pests, helping to prevent the use of pesticides. Researchers fear that WNS may spread to the midwest, where the largest hibernacula occur and where bats eat millions of crop pests every night.

**Please consider supporting white-nose syndrome research.** There has been little federal funding for WNS, and funds are urgently needed to find the cause of, and hopefully a prevention for, the death of so many bats.



*Please cut along dotted line and return stub with your donation. If you would like to donate via credit card, please call us at 617-353-6982.*

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