

# BC COMMUNITY BAT PROGRAM

## BC Annual Bat Count Summary 2021

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### *Why counting bats is important*

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The BC Annual Bat Count is a summer emergence count of bats at day roosts in human-made structures (e.g. houses, barns, bat boxes). Begun in 2012, we now have data on seven bat species from **5058 counts at 835 sites** around the province.

Bats are an essential part of our BC ecology and are of huge economic importance, consuming large quantities of insects each night. Bats face a wide variety of threats, including habitat loss, increasing severity of fires, and wide-scale mortality from White-nose Syndrome (WNS).

The Annual Bat Count dataset is a key part of our provincial bat monitoring program, helping to monitor trends in bat populations and detect declines from WNS. Monitoring will also inform our policies and management actions to protect and conserve our bats. No private landowner information is passed along when the count results are shared.

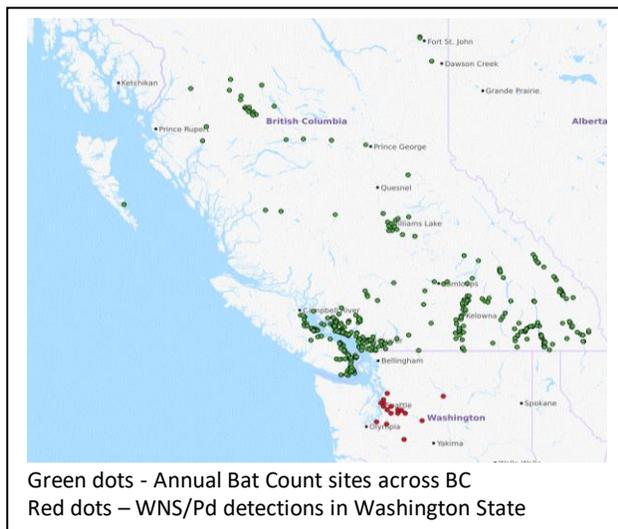
### *Number of volunteers*

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The BC Annual Bat Count continues to grow, thanks to our volunteers. In 2021, volunteers donated **1932 volunteer-nights**, participating in **913 bat counts**. A huge thank-you to everyone who participated in this program!

### *Number of sites*

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In 2021, there were a total of **948 counts** done at **331 roost sites**.

**Largest** colony counted in one night: **6368 bats**

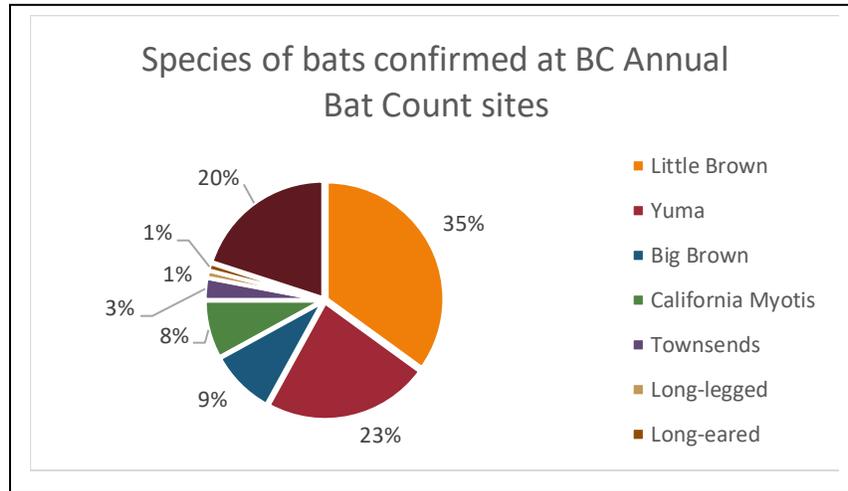
**Smallest** count: **0**  
'Zero' counts are important data as well, particularly for bat boxes.

### *Species of bats*

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Seven species have been identified at sites counted in the Annual Bat Count. Most common are the Little Brown Myotis and Yuma Myotis. There are also Big Brown Bats, California Myotis, Townsend's Big-

eared Bats, Long-legged Myotis, and Long-eared Myotis. Mixed colonies, with more than one species present, are common. More information about these species can be found on our [website](#) or in the [Bat-friendly Communities Guide](#).



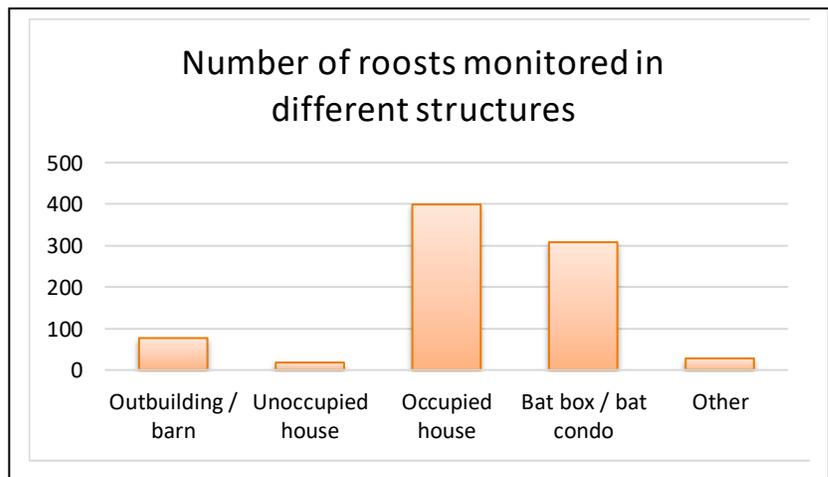
There are now **340 sites** where we know the species of bat living there. If you have a roost and do not know what species of bat lives there, you can submit a guano sample following [the directions](#) on our Bat Count page, or contact the [BC Community Bat Program Coordinator](#).

**Number of species counted: 7**

### Structures used by bats

Bats roost in many structures, including rocky outcrops and trees with loose bark, cracks, or cavities. The BC Annual Bat Count focuses on bats in human-made structures.

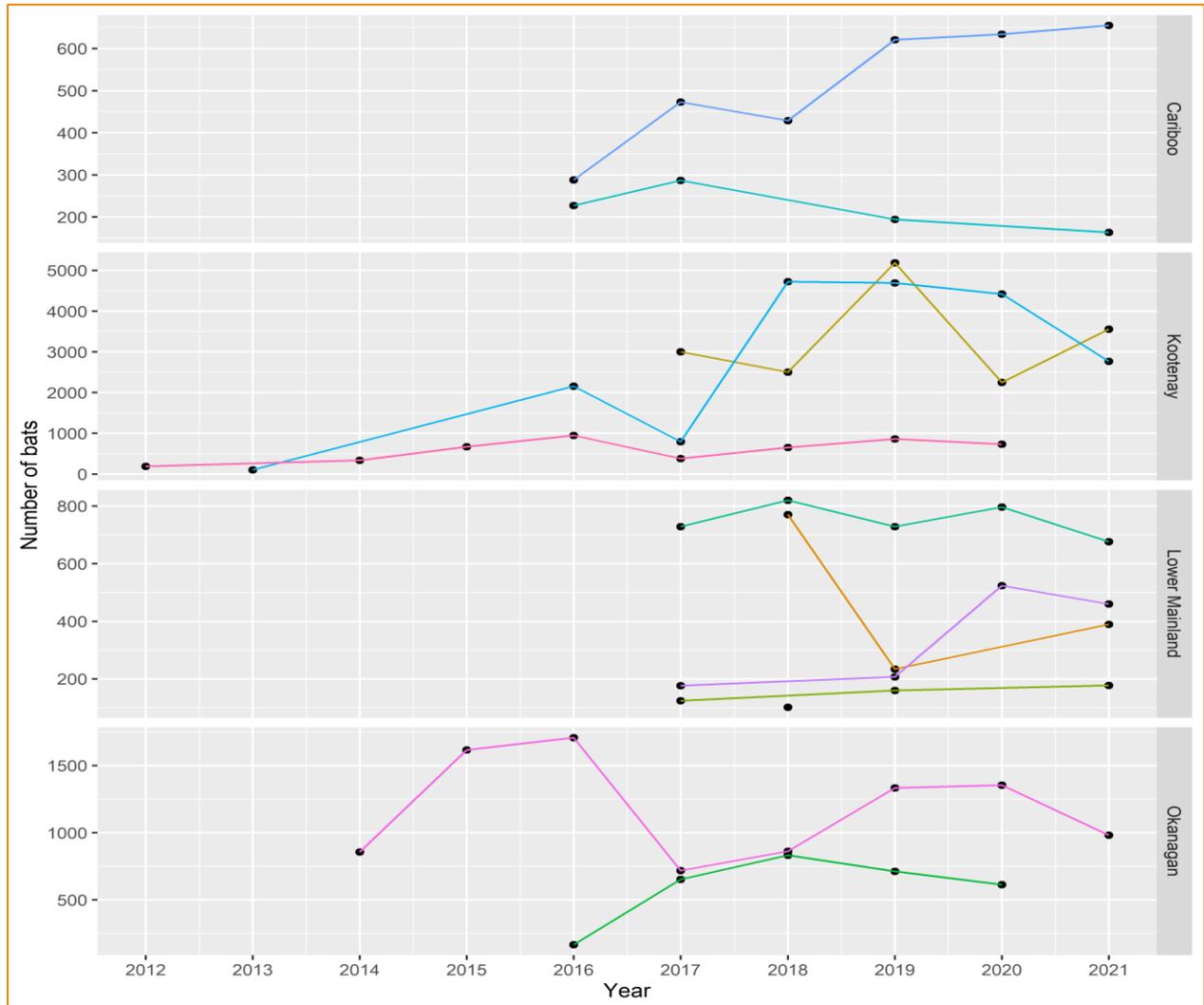
Most monitored roost sites are located in occupied houses (399 sites; 48%) and bat boxes or bat condos (308 sites; 37%). Bat colonies are also monitored in outbuildings/barns, unoccupied houses, and other structures (umbrellas, caves, and bridges).



Photos left to right:: Bat in umbrella- B Stoddart, Bat Count - SCWP, Bat Count - OCBP

## Trends at count sites

The Annual Bat Count data set can illustrate trends in populations. Count data from key sites are graphed by region and species group to screen for sites with large declines, identify areas to focus on to improve sample sizes, and to provide feedback to coordinators and local volunteers.



Results from select priority sites in each region are above - stay tuned for more detailed information on how bat colonies in your region are doing. You can request data for your own count site from [bcbats@gmail.com](mailto:bcbats@gmail.com).

Thank-you for counting! We look forwards to your 2022 results!

Visit: [www.bcbats.ca](http://www.bcbats.ca) [Annual Bat Count](#)



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