



Northern Long-eared Bat

Scientific Name: *Myotis septentrionalis*

New York Status: Threatened

Federal Status: Threatened

Distribution and Habitat

Northern long-eared bats (NLEB), also known as Northern myotis, are primarily forest-dependent insectivores. They utilize a diversity of forest habitats for roosting, foraging and raising young. In general, any tree large enough to have a cavity or that has loose bark may be utilized by NLEB for roosting or rearing young. Prior to 2006, NLEB were frequently detected in the forests of every county of New York State with the exception of the 5 counties of New York City. Since they feed predominantly on flying insects, they hibernate through the late fall and early spring to save energy when food is not available. Most known hibernation sites are caves or abandoned mines.

A Species in Decline

NLEB were listed as "threatened" by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the federal Endangered Species Act on April 2, 2015. In New York, all federally threatened species that occur in the state are afforded threatened status under the New York Endangered Species Law and its implementing regulations. As recently as 2005, the NLEB was New York State's third most common bat species with populations estimated at or above 500,000 animals. The federal listing was the result of a dramatic population decline throughout most of the species' range. These declines have been caused by white-nose syndrome (WNS), a disease caused by an invasive fungus that ultimately causes affected hibernating bats to starve to death over the winter. Since WNS was first discovered in New York in 2006, a 98% decline in the abundance of NLEB has been observed. Successful recovery of the species will require the development of some form of treatment for exposure to WNS, and the DEC is actively working with researchers from around North America to develop a treatment. In the meantime, legal protections afforded by the listing status of the bat are focused on minimizing and avoiding direct loss of the remaining individuals by protecting the known hibernation sites and limiting forest management activities where NLEB are most likely to be present to certain times of the year.



*A northern long-eared bat
in its hibernaculum.*

General Recommendations for the Protection of Northern Long-eared Bats in New York

This section provides guidance regarding recommended measures to ensure that forest management activities are protective of the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) and do not result in an incidental take pursuant to 6NYCRR Part 182.

Guidance from DEC

Because it is the disease (WNS) and not habitat that is currently limiting the population, removal of trees from the landscape is not considered harmful unless there are potentially bats within the trees during the time they are

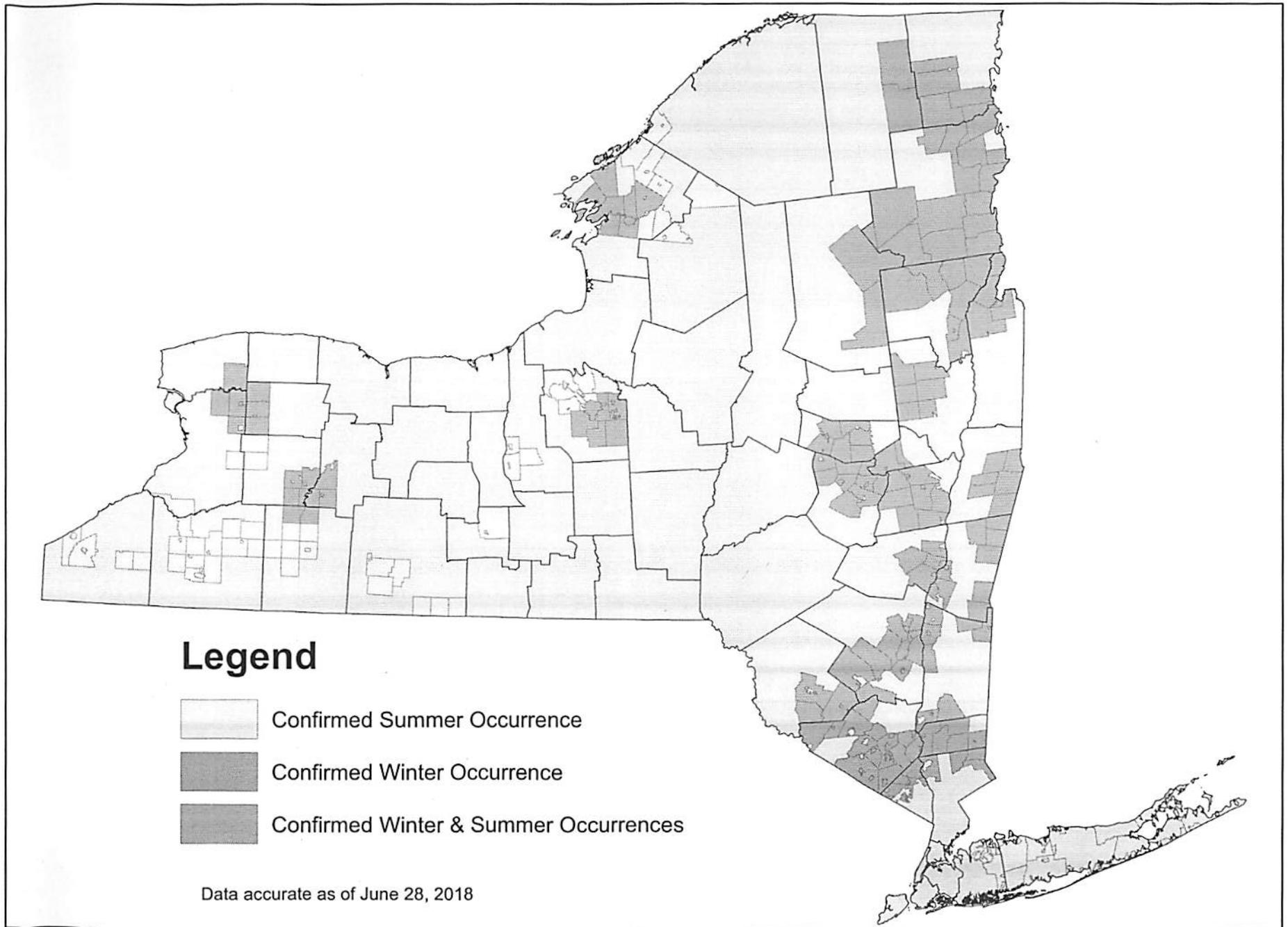
harvested or otherwise removed from the landscape. We do not have perfect information on where NLEB occur. To protect NLEB from unintentional harm, the Department encourages the voluntary implementation of all forest management activities during the hibernation period (**November 1 through April 1**) when bats are not expected to be present. However, there are no restrictions on tree cutting unless a project is located within 5 miles of a known hibernation site or 1.5 miles of a documented summer occurrence. See the Protection of Northern Long-eared Bats page for a map and list of known NLEB occurrences by town. For all projects that require the removal of trees, the following voluntary actions are recommended:

- Leave snag and cavity trees uncut unless their removal is necessary for protection of human life and property. Snag and cavity trees are defined under DEC Program Policy ONR-DLF-2 Retention on State Forests.
- If any bats are observed flying from a tree, or on a tree that has been cut, tree management activities in the area should be suspended and DEC Wildlife staff notified as soon as possible. A permit may be required to continue work, or you may have to wait until November 1 to resume activities.

If your project is located within 5 miles of a known hibernation site or 1.5 miles of a documented summer occurrence, please see Protection of Northern Long-eared Bats for additional guidance.

For more information on other species of bats, visit Watchable Wildlife.

Northern Long-eared Bat Occurrences by Town



Northern Long-eared Bat Occurrences by Town

*if your town is highlighted in yellow, please contact [NYNHP](#) to see whether your project site is within 0.25 miles of a hibernacula, or 150 feet of a summer occurrence.

County	Name	Occurrence	
		Summer	Winter
Albany	Altamont		Yes
	Berne		Yes
	Bethlehem		Yes
	Coeymans		Yes
	Guilderland		Yes
	Knox		Yes
	New Scotland		Yes
	Voorheesville		Yes
	Westerlo		Yes
Allegany	Allen	Yes	
	Angelica	Yes	
	Belfast	Yes	
	Caneadea	Yes	
	Friendship	Yes	
	Granger		Yes
	Hume		Yes
	New Hudson	Yes	
Cattaraugus	Ellicottville	Yes	
	Farmersville	Yes	
	Franklinville	Yes	
	Great Valley	Yes	
	Little Valley	Yes	
	Lyndon	Yes	
	Machias	Yes	
	Mansfield	Yes	
	Napoli	Yes	
	New Albion	Yes	
	Otto	Yes	
	Salamanca	Yes	
Cayuga	Ledyard	Yes	
	Scipio	Yes	
	Springport	Yes	
Chautauqua	Chautauqua	Yes	
	Ellington	Yes	
	Gerry	Yes	
	Westfield	Yes	
Clinton	Ausable		Yes
	Black Brook		Yes
	Dannemora		Yes
	Peru		Yes
	Saranac		Yes

Note: not all portions of listed towns are covered by a buffer. If your town is listed, contact [NYNHP](#) or your [regional DEC office](#) to see whether your project site falls within known occupied habitat.

County	Name	Occurrence	
		Summer	Winter
Columbia	Ancram		Yes
	Austerlitz		Yes
	Canaan		Yes
	Chatham		Yes
	Copake		Yes
	Germantown		Yes
	Greenport		Yes
	Hudson		Yes
	Livingston		Yes
	New Lebanon		Yes
Dutchess	East Fishkill		Yes
	Fishkill		Yes
	Hyde Park		Yes
	Millerton		Yes
	Northeast		Yes
	Pine Plains		Yes
	Red Hook		Yes
	Rhinebeck		Yes
Erie	Akron		Yes
	Alden		Yes
	Clarence		Yes
	Collins	Yes	
	Newstead		Yes
	Wales	Yes	
Essex	Chesterfield		Yes
	Crown Point		Yes
	Elizabethtown		Yes
	Essex		Yes
	Jay		Yes
	Lewis		Yes
	Minerva		Yes
	Moriah		Yes
	Newcomb		Yes
	North Hudson		Yes
	Schroon		Yes
	Ticonderoga		Yes
	Westport		Yes
Wilmington		Yes	
Franklin	Bellmont		Yes
	Franklin		Yes
Genesee	Alabama		Yes
	Corfu		Yes
	Darien		Yes
	Pembroke		Yes

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		Summer	Winter
Greene	Athens		Yes
	Cairo		Yes
	Catskill		Yes
	Coxsackie		Yes
Hamilton	Indian Lake		Yes
	Wells		Yes
Jefferson	Alexandria	Yes	
	Black River	Yes	
	Brownville		Yes
	Champion	Yes	
	Chaumont		Yes
	Clayton	Yes	Yes
	Dexter		Yes
	Evans Mills	Yes	
	Glen Park		Yes
	Hounsfield		Yes
	Le Ray	Yes	Yes
	Lyme		Yes
	Pamelia		Yes
	Philadelphia	Yes	
	Rutland	Yes	
Theresa	Yes		
Watertown	Yes	Yes	
Lewis	Copenhagen	Yes	
	Denmark	Yes	
	Diana	Yes	
Livingston	Mount Morris		Yes
	Nunda		Yes
	Portage		Yes
Montgomery	Ames		Yes
	Canajoharie		Yes
	Charleston		Yes
	Glen		Yes
	Mohawk		Yes
	Nelliston		Yes
	Palatine		Yes
	Palatine Bridge		Yes
	Root		Yes
Nassau	Brookville	Yes	
	Muttontown	Yes	
	Oyster Bay	Yes	
	Oyster Bay Cove	Yes	
	Upper Brookville	Yes	
Niagara	Royalton		Yes

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		Summer	Winter
Onondaga	Camillus	Yes	
	Clay	Yes	
	De Witt		Yes
	East Syracuse		Yes
	Fayetteville		Yes
	Geddes	Yes	
	La Fayette		Yes
	Liverpool	Yes	
	Lysander	Yes	
	Manlius		Yes
	Minoa		Yes
	Onondaga		Yes
	Pompey		Yes
	Salina	Yes	
	Syracuse		Yes
Van Buren	Yes		
Orange	Blooming Grove		Yes
	Chester		Yes
	Cornwall	Yes	Yes
	Cornwall-on-Hudson		Yes
	Crawford		Yes
	Deerpark		Yes
	Goshen		Yes
	Greenwood Lake		Yes
	Hamptonburgh		Yes
	Harriman		Yes
	Highland Falls		Yes
	Highlands	Yes	Yes
	Kiryas Joel		Yes
	Monroe		Yes
	Mount Hope		Yes
	Otisville		Yes
	South Blooming Grove		Yes
	Tuxedo		Yes
	Tuxedo Park		Yes
	Walkkill		Yes
Warwick		Yes	
Washingtonville		Yes	
Woodbury	Yes	Yes	
Putnam	Brewster		Yes
	Carmel		Yes
	Cold Spring		Yes
	Kent		Yes
	Nelsonville		Yes
	Philipstown		Yes
	Putnam Valley		Yes
	Southeast		Yes

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		Summer	Winter
Rensselaer	Berlin		Yes
	Grafton		Yes
	Petersburgh		Yes
	Poestenkill		Yes
	Sand Lake		Yes
	Stephentown		Yes
Rockland	Haverstraw		Yes
	Hillburn		Yes
	Pomona		Yes
	Ramapo		Yes
	Sloatsburg		Yes
	Stony Point		Yes
Saratoga	Corinth		Yes
	Edinburg		Yes
	Galway		Yes
	Greenfield		Yes
	Milton		Yes
	Providence		Yes
Schenectady	Delanson		Yes
	Duanesburg		Yes
	Princetown		Yes
Schoharie	Carlisle		Yes
	Cobleskill		Yes
	Esperance		Yes
	Esperance		Yes
	Fulton		Yes
	Middleburgh		Yes
	Schoharie		Yes
	Seward		Yes
	Sharon		Yes
	Wright		Yes
Schuyler	Hector	Yes	
St Lawrence	Hammond	Yes	
Steuben	Cameron	Yes	
	Canisteo	Yes	
	Caton	Yes	
	Jasper	Yes	
	Lindley	Yes	
	Tuscarora	Yes	
Suffolk	Brookhaven	Yes	
	Dering Harbor	Yes	
	East Hampton	Yes	
	Huntington	Yes	
	Islandia	Yes	
	Islip	Yes	
	Lloyd Harbor	Yes	
Mastic Beach	Yes		

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		Summer	Winter
Suffolk (cont'd)	Riverhead	Yes	
	Sag Harbor	Yes	
	Shelter Island	Yes	
	Shoreham	Yes	
	Smithtown	Yes	
	Southampton	Yes	
	Southold	Yes	
	Village of the Branch	Yes	
Sullivan	Bloomington		Yes
	Forestburgh		Yes
	Mamakating		Yes
	Thompson		Yes
	Wurtsboro		Yes
Ulster	Esopus		Yes
	Hurley		Yes
	Kingston		Yes
	Marbletown		Yes
	New Paltz		Yes
	Rochester		Yes
	Rosendale		Yes
	Shawangunk		Yes
	Ulster		Yes
	Wawarsing		Yes
Warren	Bolton		Yes
	Chester		Yes
	Hague		Yes
	Horicon		Yes
	Johnsburg		Yes
	Lake George		Yes
	Queensbury		Yes
Washington	Dresden		Yes
	Fort Ann		Yes
	Putnam		Yes
	Whitehall		Yes
Westchester	Cortlandt		Yes
	Lewisboro		Yes
	North Salem		Yes
	Somers		Yes
Wyoming	Bennington	Yes	
	Castile		Yes
	Gainesville		Yes
	Genesee Falls		Yes
	Pike		Yes
	Sheldon	Yes	

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