

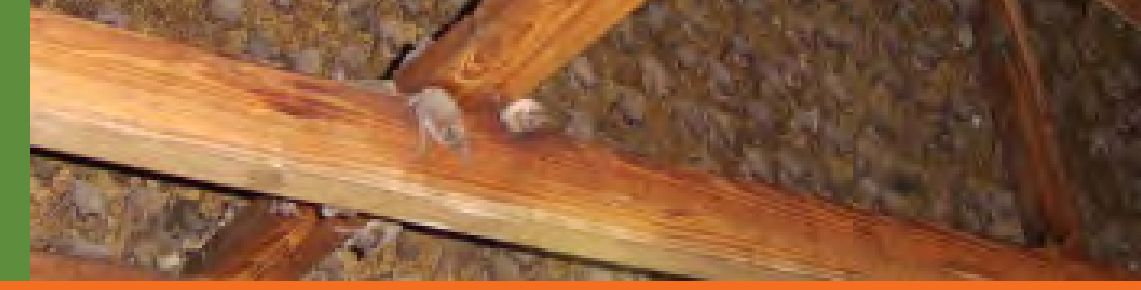
Have You Got Bats?

If you find bats in a building in South or Central Florida, here is what you need to know.



Are they under a tile roof?

Are they in a building?



How can you tell if you have bats?

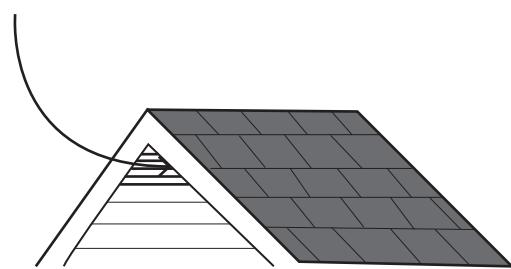
Some bats sleep in buildings during the day. Bats can enter buildings through holes and crevices as small as 1/2 inch.

Bats are wild animals that should never be touched or harassed. Bats cannot legally be trapped and relocated.

But, there are ways you can encourage a colony of bats to leave a building:





First, check if these are Florida bonneted bats (see next page). The Florida bonneted bat is a federally endangered species that cannot be evicted from a building without a permit. If you live in south or central Florida and suspect you have found Florida bonneted bats, contact U.S. Fish & Wildlife through their office in Vero Beach at 772-562-3909 or verobeach@fws.gov.

Some evidence of bats in a building include:



- Scat (brown-black pellets, called guano), often accumulates in piles beneath bats' favorite sleeping spots
- Stains from urine or body oils can form near the holes or crevices bats use to get in or out of the building
- Bat calls (high pitched chirps and squeaks) can sometimes be heard during the day

Use this table to tell if you have a federally endangered Florida bonneted bat

 Florida bonneted	 Brazilian free-tailed	 Velvety free-tailed	 Other bats
Is the tail visible?			
Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Are the ears joined at the base?			
Yes	No	Yes	No, ears are pointed upward
How many are in the building?			
1 to 60	100 to many thousand	10 to 1,000	1 to a few thousand



Tail visible Ears joined at the base

FLORIDA BONNETED BATS: Florida's fascinating high fliers

The Florida bonneted bat is a federally endangered species found nowhere in the world but south and central Florida. They are believed to occur in just 14 counties: Miami-Dade, Monroe, Broward, Collier, Hendry, Lee, Glades, Charlotte, Okeechobee, Highlands, Desoto, Sarasota, Osceola, and Polk.

These are the largest bats east of the Mississippi River. Each bat is about the size of a standard iPhone when at rest.

At night Florida bonneted bats fly high in the sky, feeding on insects. During the day, they sleep beneath barrel tile roofs, in live and dead palm trees and pine tree cavities, and in bat houses.

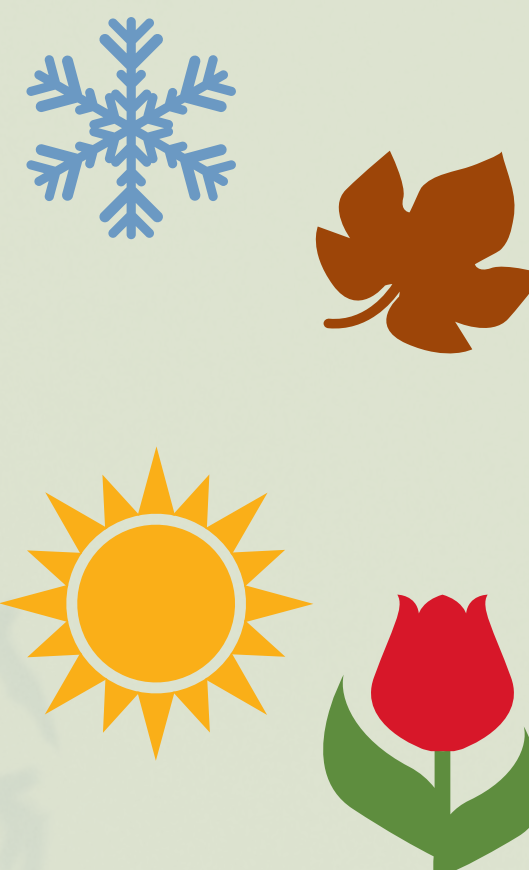
Florida bonneted bats are federally protected and should not be disturbed or harmed in any way.

If you suspect you have found a Florida bonneted bat:

- Contact U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (772-562-3909 or verobeach@fws.gov).
- If you can take a photo of the head and rump of a bat without disturbing it, submit these pictures to help experts verify the type of bat. Include some object in the view for scale, if possible.
- NOTE: bats are wild animals and should never be handled or disturbed, especially sick, injured, or dead bats. The harming of any bat is prohibited.

If you have a colony of any type of bat other than Florida bonneted bats, you may be able to 'exclude' them from a building safely and humanely using approved methods. Excluding bats involves installing a structure that serves as a one-way door that allows bats to leave but not return.

If you have questions about excluding bats, contact your Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission regional office (<http://myfwc.com/contact/fwc-staff/regional-offices>).



August 15 - April 15

Bat species other than Florida bonneted bats can be excluded during fall and winter

April 16 - August 14

No bats can be excluded without a special permit when mother bats are raising young, which is during spring and summer

