



We put up a bat detector for a year, THIS IS WHAT WE FOUND



WHAT?

We installed a bat detector to record bat calls as they flew by during the night.

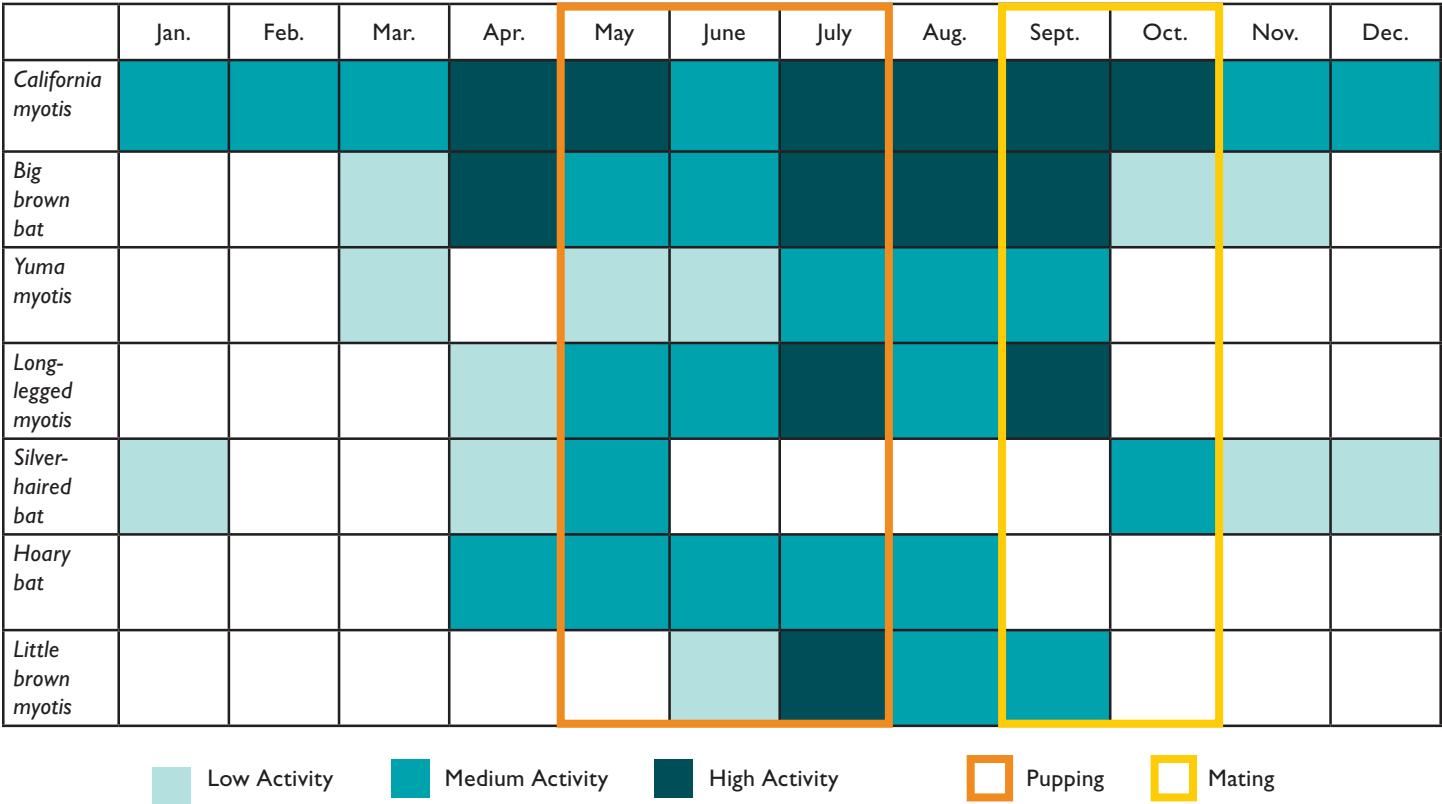
WHERE?

The Family Farm on the south end of Woodland Park Zoo.

WHY?

Not enough is known about our local bats. This is how we can learn more without disturbing them.

2020 BAT SPECIES ACTIVITY LEVELS



WHAT IS A BAT DETECTOR?

A bat detector is a microphone that detects ultrasound (sound frequencies that are too high for humans to hear). Some bat detectors, like the device placed at the zoo's Family Farm, record bat calls and allow us to analyze the species that made the calls. Other bat detectors can lower the received frequency and provide an output sound that is audible to humans.



WHAT IS ECHOLOCATION?

Echolocation is how bats "see" in the dark. Bats in the Pacific Northwest produce sound waves by contracting their larynxes (voice box) and emitting the sounds through their mouths. These sound waves bounce off an object, echoing back to the bat telling it what it is looking at.



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Many bat species are here in Seattle and some may even hunt in your backyard! Recording bat calls does not tell us population status, but it does tell us where they are and which species are around.



WHY DOES IT MATTER?

All bats in the Pacific Northwest are insectivorous and are the main predators of nocturnal insects including moths and beetles, many of which are agriculture pests. They currently face many threats such as habitat destruction, global climate change and white-nose syndrome. Learning about bats, such as where they hunt and roost in cities, is the first step to finding out how we can help them.

The detector was installed and is maintained by Bats Northwest and Woodland Park Zoo; the data analysis is conducted by John Bassett of Bats Northwest.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Visit these websites to explore our local bats and learn what you can do!
zoo.org/batconservation | batsnorthwest.org | wdfw.wa.gov/bats

