

# Hoary Bat

## Lasiurus cinereus

### Description

Hoary bats weigh 20 to 35 grams and have a wingspan of 43 cm. They have a blunt, rounded nose, small eyes, and short, rounded ears. Their thick, long, soft hair covers their entire back and is a mix of brown-grey with a frosty appearance.

Their name means "frosty or ash-coloured hairy tail." The front side is less frosted, with a distinct yellow patch on the throat and yellowish hair on the elbow, thumb, and upper arm. Juveniles appear nearly grey but still frosty. Hoary bats have large skulls and strong teeth.

The hoary bat is a migratory bat species, which means instead of spending winter months hibernating in large colonies, this solitary bat migrates to warm winter habitats in the southern United States and the Caribbean.

Hoary bats are the largest species of bat found in Canada.

### FUN FACTS

- These bats fly up to 13 mph.
- They wrap their tails around their bodies for insulation during rest and become torpid.
- They often experience mortality risks from becoming entangled in barbed wire fences.
- Hoary bats are solitary, roosting 3 to 5 meters high in dense foliage with open areas below, preferring trees near clearings.

If you find an injured or orphaned wild animal, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at 403-214-1312, for tips, instructions and advice.

