

# MEET ONTARIO'S BATS

Bats are often misunderstood and many people are afraid of them. However, they are harmless and amazing animals. Ontario has eight species of bats, all of which eat insects. The only flying mammals, they come out in the night and use sound to find their food.

Some bats can eat their own body weight in insects each night! Five Ontario bats hibernate through the Canadian winter, while three migrate to warmer climates.

Unfortunately, Ontario's bat species are in trouble. Since 2012, four species have been listed as endangered, and others are also facing difficulties.



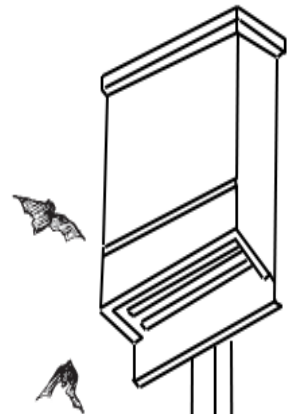
## THERE ARE FOUR MAIN THREATS THAT BATS FACE:

- **White Nose Syndrome (WNS)** is a deadly fungus that grows in caves used by hibernating bats. The fungus grows on a bat's body and face and causes it to wake up more than normal during the winter. This leaves bats with too little energy to survive until spring. WNS spreads between bats when they hibernate together.
- **Habitat Loss** means bats are losing their homes. Problems include the destruction or disturbance of bat roosts (where bats sleep), hibernacula (where bats hibernate), and deforestation in areas where they feed.
- **Wind Turbines** can kill bats that fly too close.
- **Pesticide use** decreases the amount of food that bats have and leads bats to ingest the toxins used against insects.



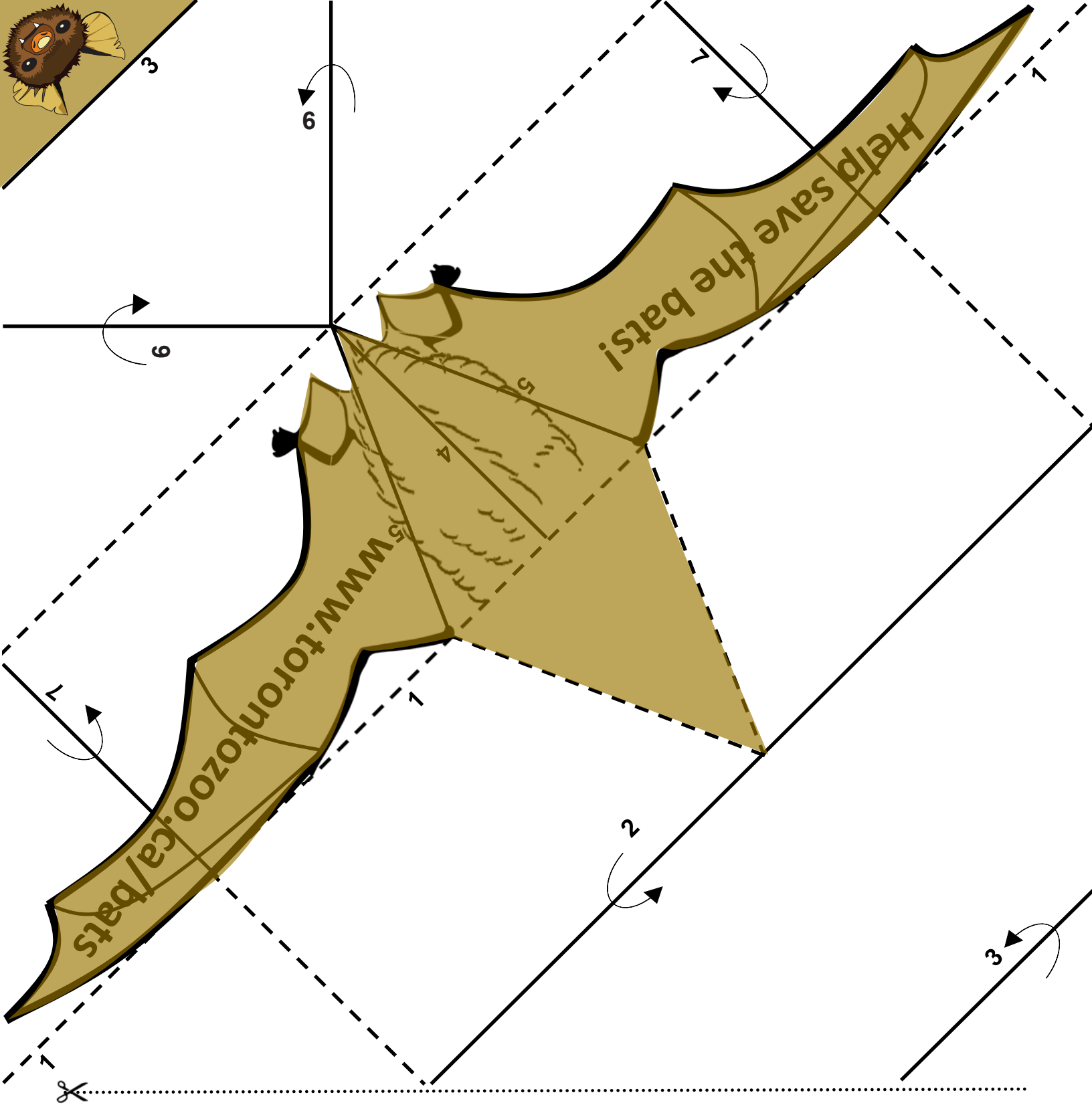
## YOU CAN HELP TO PROTECT AND CONSERVE BATS BY:

- Conserving and not disturbing roosts and hibernacula. These are important habitats for bats that are integral to their survival. They are a place to rest, raise young, take shelter, and conserve energy through the winter. If you visit a bat cave while they are hibernating, you could wake them up and cause death, or spread the WNS fungus.
- Reporting any roosts or hibernacula that you find to [www.batwatch.ca](http://www.batwatch.ca).
- Installing bat boxes to provide alternative housing.
- Monitoring roosts or bat boxes, and taking part in other citizen science.



To learn more, visit  
[www.torontozoo.ca/bats](http://www.torontozoo.ca/bats)

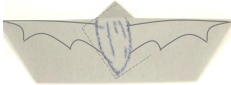




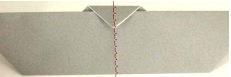
Instructions for Bat Origami (Figures show what it will look like after completing the Step).



1) Flip over so that the "bat" is face down. Fold diagonally along the dotted line #1 so the bottom comes up to the top. You should see Lines 2, 3.



2) While keeping the paper together with Line 3 at the top, fold along Line 2 so the bottom part of the page folds upwards. You should see the body.



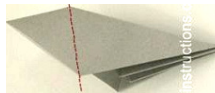
3) Fold along line #3 so the top comes down and the face is visible (not shown in picture).



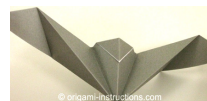
4) Fold line #4, so "wings" go backwards and half of the face and body are visible.



5) Fold line #5 on the wings so they come forward and you cannot see the body. Repeat on each side.



6) Fold line #6 following the direction of the arrow. Repeat on each side.



7) Fold line #7 following the direction of the arrow (top comes down). Repeat on each side. Unfold and you have a bat!