

Standardized Protocol Counting Bats in a Summer Colony

Abbreviated Procedure

To count the number of bats in a colony, you first must determine how they enter the building. If this has not been done, refer to the protocol at the following link:

http://chauvesourisquebec.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/Protocole_validation_maternite.pdf

Inventory periods

Count no.	Dates	Lifecycle Period
<i>Southern Québec (south of the 49th parallel): Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Outaouais,* Laurentides, Lanaudière, Mauricie, Centre-du-Québec, Laval, Montréal, Montérégie,* Estrie,* Capitale-Nationale, Chaudière-Appalaches, Bas-Saint-Laurent, and Gaspésie</i>		
1	June 1 to July 10	Activity before all juveniles can fly
2*	July 11–31	Activity with juveniles
<i>Nord du Québec (north of the 49th parallel): Côte-Nord, Nord-du-Québec, and Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean</i>		
1	June 15 to July 20	Activity before all juveniles can fly
2	July 21 to August 5	Activity with juveniles

* For Montérégie, Estrie, and Outaouais, the second count should be completed by July 25.

Weather conditions

Temperature > 15°C

Wind: < 20 km/h, max. 3 on the Beaufort scale

Precipitation: Avoid evenings with rain unless it is very light

Data collection

Before counting:

- Complete **Section A** of the data sheet below (Appendix D)
- Identify the site using the colony's unique identification number

Standardized Protocol Counting Bats in a Summer Colony

Abbreviated Procedure (cont.)

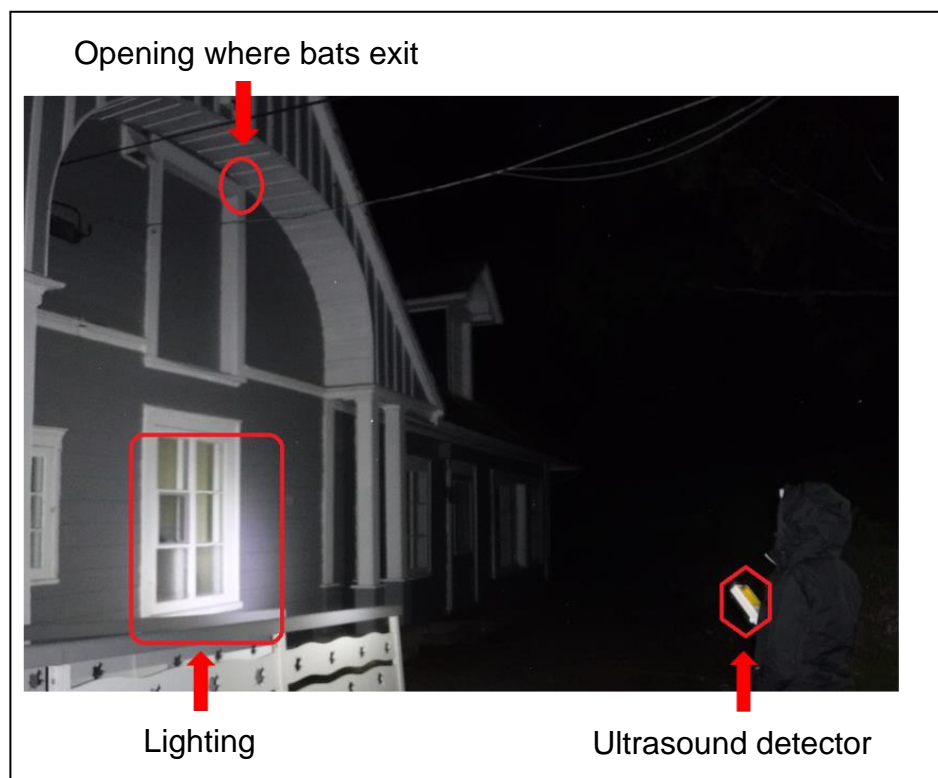
Data collection (cont.)

After counting:

- Enter the collected data on the online form:
- https://chauve-souris.ca/participer/ajout_decompte.
If you have any problems, contact info@chauvesourisquebec.ca.

Count

- Once on site, identify known openings through which the bats fly.
- At sunset, place one or two people per opening depending on how many people are available. Bats usually begin to emerge about 30 minutes after sunset, but they may take longer (45 min. to 1 hour). Be patient.
- Each participant performs their own count for the opening they're assigned. If the bats use more than one opening, place one participant per opening and mention it in the "Comments" section of the form (Appendix D).
- Participants should position themselves 10–15 m from the opening, at a slight angle to see the bats emerging more clearly. Use a lamp to shine a little light on the side or bottom of the opening to avoid preventing the bats from coming out. Light that is too strong and too direct can prevent bats from coming out. Ideally use night vision goggles or binoculars and constantly watch the assigned opening so that no bats are missed coming out.



Standardized Protocol Counting Bats in a Summer Colony

Abbreviated Procedure (cont.)

5. Count all bats exiting through the assigned opening. It is important not to count bats flying around the opening or the colony. They may come from another site.
6. When counting, you may identify new openings through which the bats are flying. It is important to record them on the form and, if necessary, mark them on a diagram.
7. If no bats return and enter the colony, the count ends approximately 30 minutes after the last bat exited. Note the time at which this occurs. Also note the time and temperature when the count is finished.
8. During the count, it is likely that bats will return to the colony while others continue to exit. When more than two bats return inside, record the number of bats counted to date. If the count becomes too difficult due to the number of bats returning to the colony, stop the count and record the time.
9. Also note the time and temperature when the count is finished.
10. Record the results of the count:
 - a. Indicate the name of each observer and the number of bats counted by each observer.
 - b. Specify whether there is more than one opening through which bats exited the colony. Number the openings and indicate which observer was placed at each opening.
 - c. The total number of bats will be the sum of all the bats seen coming out.
 - d. If multiple observers are present per opening, record the number obtained by each; the count for that opening will be the average of the numbers obtained by those observers.
11. Identify visible or known threats in the area.
12. **Enter the information collected** on the online form:
https://chauve-souris.ca/participer/ajout_decompte. If there is a problem, send the form to the address provided.
13. If necessary, add a diagram or photos of the openings and/or colony as attachments.

Note: Please indicate in the comments section accompanying the form whether we are allowed to use any of the photos taken for educational purposes.