

Silver-haired Bat

The large, old trees in the Kuse yard provide excellent habitat for animals that need safe places for resting and raising families. On August 30 2004, we found a Silver-haired bat lying on the ground under a large Silver Maple tree. This kind of bat roosts under bark and in hollow trees. We carefully moved it to a safe place and took many photographs before releasing it into the wild. Grounded bats could be sick and carry diseases so we had to be very careful.



The Silver-haired bat is medium-sized and has silver tips on the ends of its hair. According to a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources publication this bat is one of Special Concern and a Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

The WDNR pamphlet continues by giving the following information: It is medium-sized and only half of its tail is covered with fur. It can live up to twelve years. Two pups are usually born in June. It roosts one to five meters above the ground. Males and females tend to roost alone. The one we found may have fallen out of the maple tree. It migrates to our area in April or May and leaves for the southern United States in September and October.

We have often seen a single bat flying near our pond on summer evenings. Silver-haired bats catch insects there. We are delighted to have it control the mosquito population and encourage keeping a habitat that is friendly to this very useful mammal!



Silver-haired Bat



Head of Silver-haired Bat



Feet of Silver-haired Bat



Wing and Claw of Silver-haired Bat



Ear of Silver-haired Bat

Bats of Wisconsin. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Endangered Resources, Ecological Inventory and Monitoring. Madison: Wisconsin. http://fyi.uwex.edu/aocs/files/2011/08/BatPamphlet_new.pdf (accessed October 14, 2012).