



North American Bat Monitoring Report



5 years of stationary acoustic data in Kespukwitk
(Southwest Nova Scotia) from 2021-2025

Why Bats?

Bat populations across North America have decreased significantly due to climate change, habitat loss, wind turbines, and white-nose syndrome

Today, 53% of bat species in North America are at risk of extinction



What is white-nose syndrome?

- A deadly fungal disease which impacts bats
- Thought to disrupt hibernation, wasting valuable energy stores that bats need to survive the winter
- Has killed millions of bats across North America since being discovered in 2007 (some sites show 90-100% of hibernating bats have died)
- Northern long-eared bats, little brown bats, and tricolored bats are most impacted



National Park Service

Images: Bat Conservation International

The Study

Data collected in this acoustic bat monitoring study will be used to help in bat conservation across North America



Data collected across 11 sites, over 7 days in July annually for 5 years



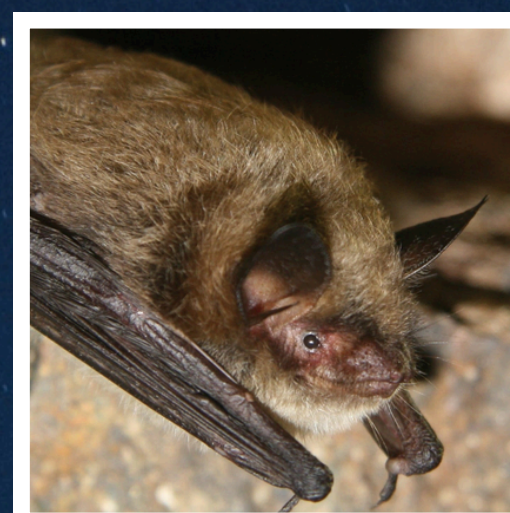
343 total survey nights



Over 22,690 recordings reviewed



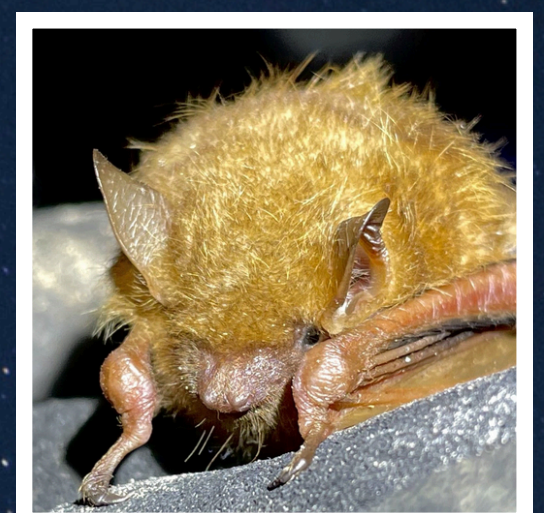
6 native species of bats identified



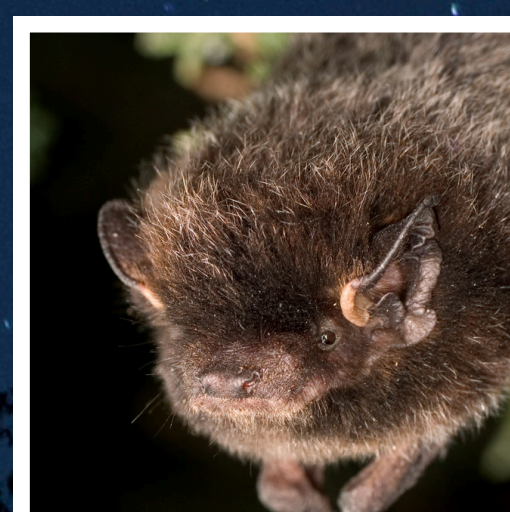
Little brown bat



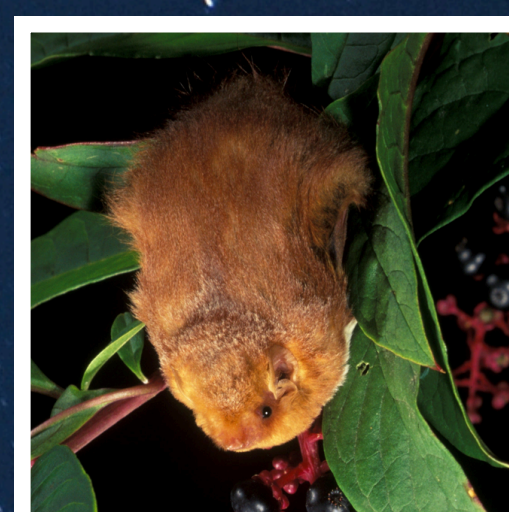
Northern long-eared bat



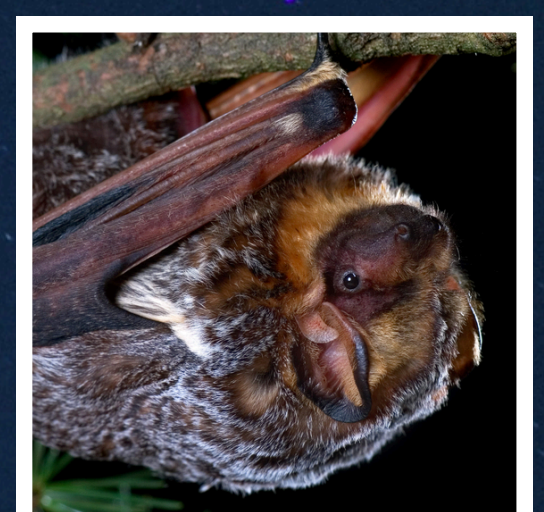
Tricolored bat



Silver-haired bat

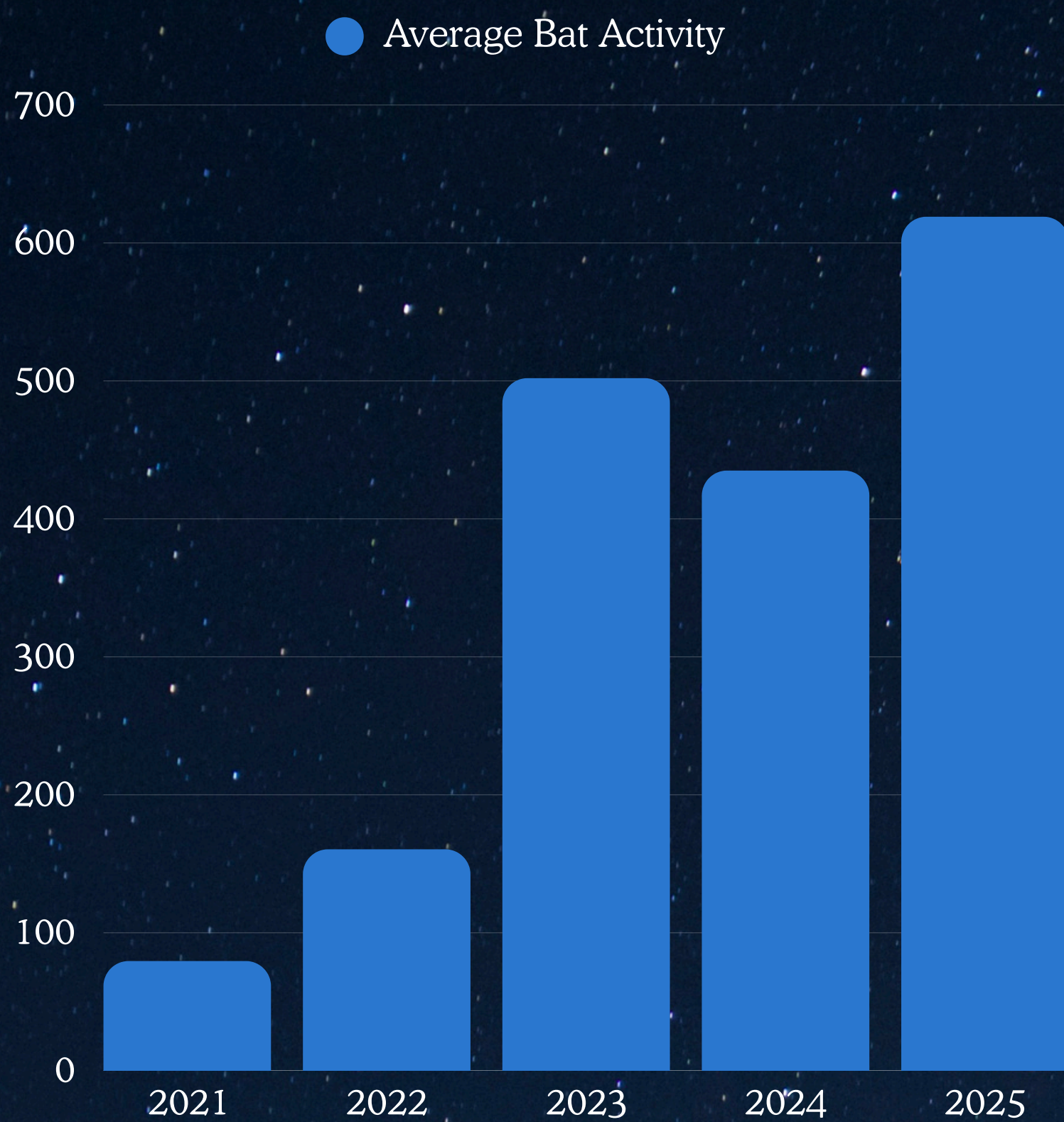


Eastern red bat



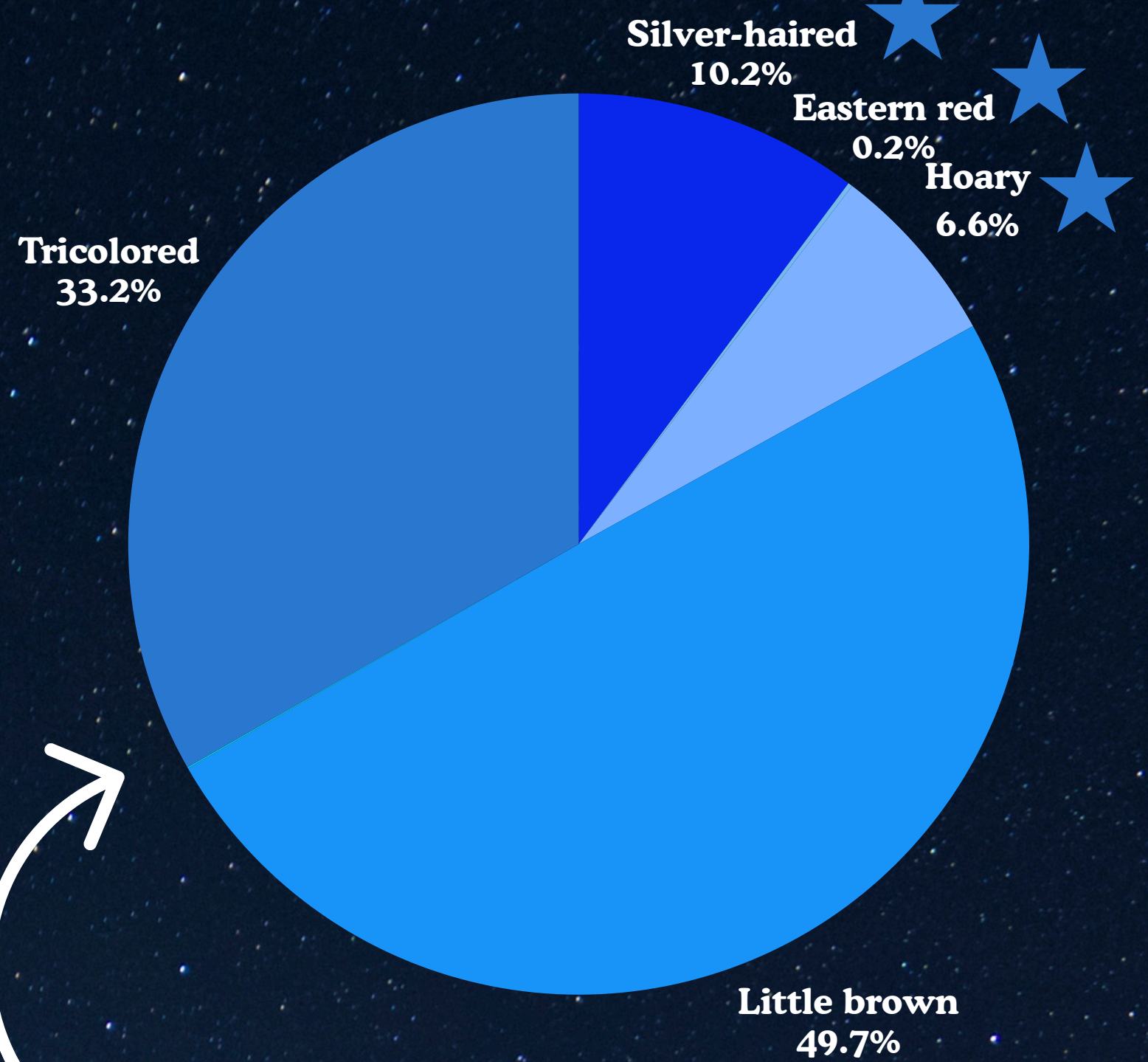
Hoary bat

The Results



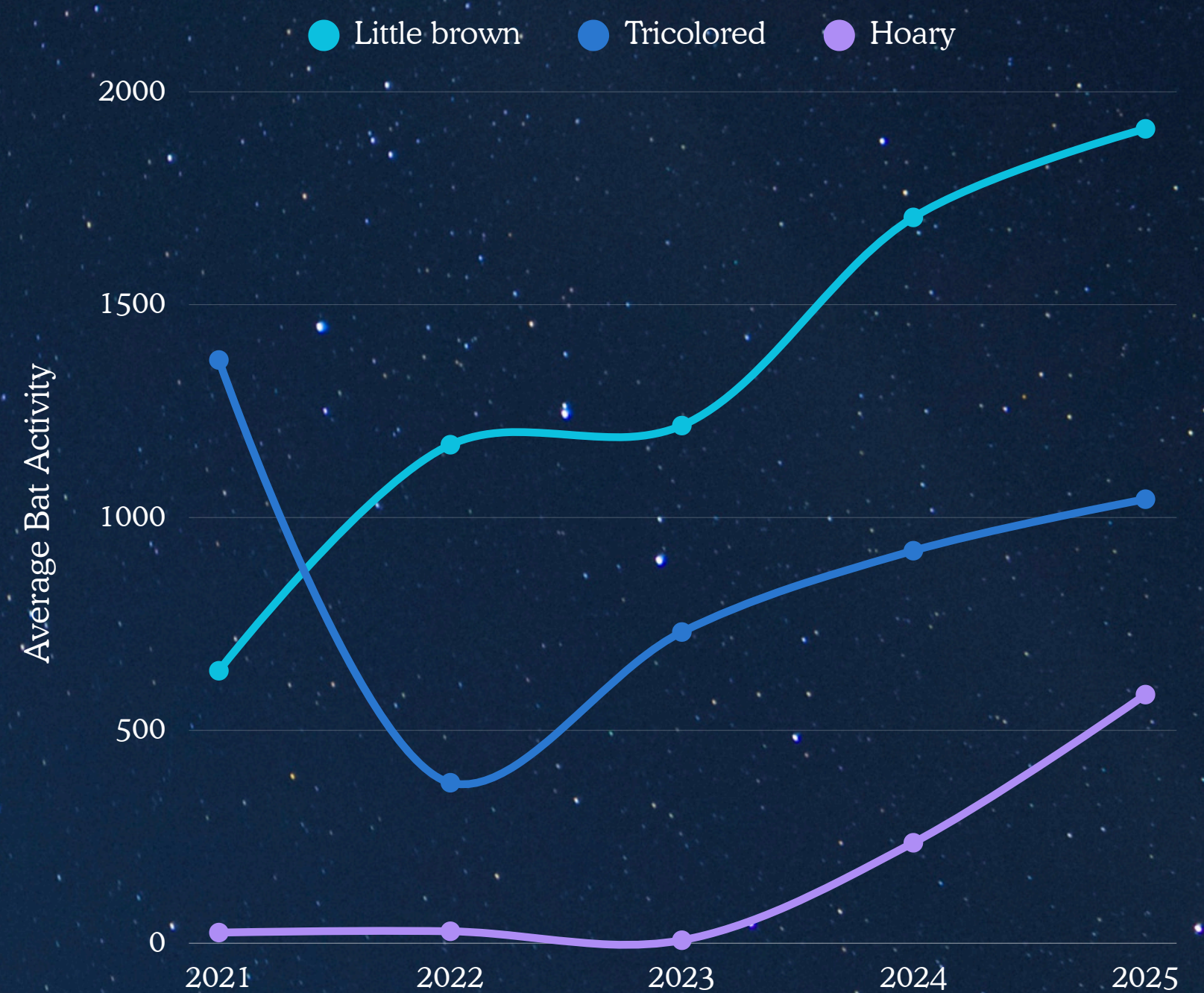
An increase in average bat activity (average # of identifiable calls each night) from 2021 to 2025:

- Species that have survived white-nose syndrome
- More migratory bat species
- Increase in little brown bat, tricolored bat, and hoary bat populations



Species identified through surveys show a surprisingly high percentage of tricolored bats and migratory bat species

★ = Migratory Species

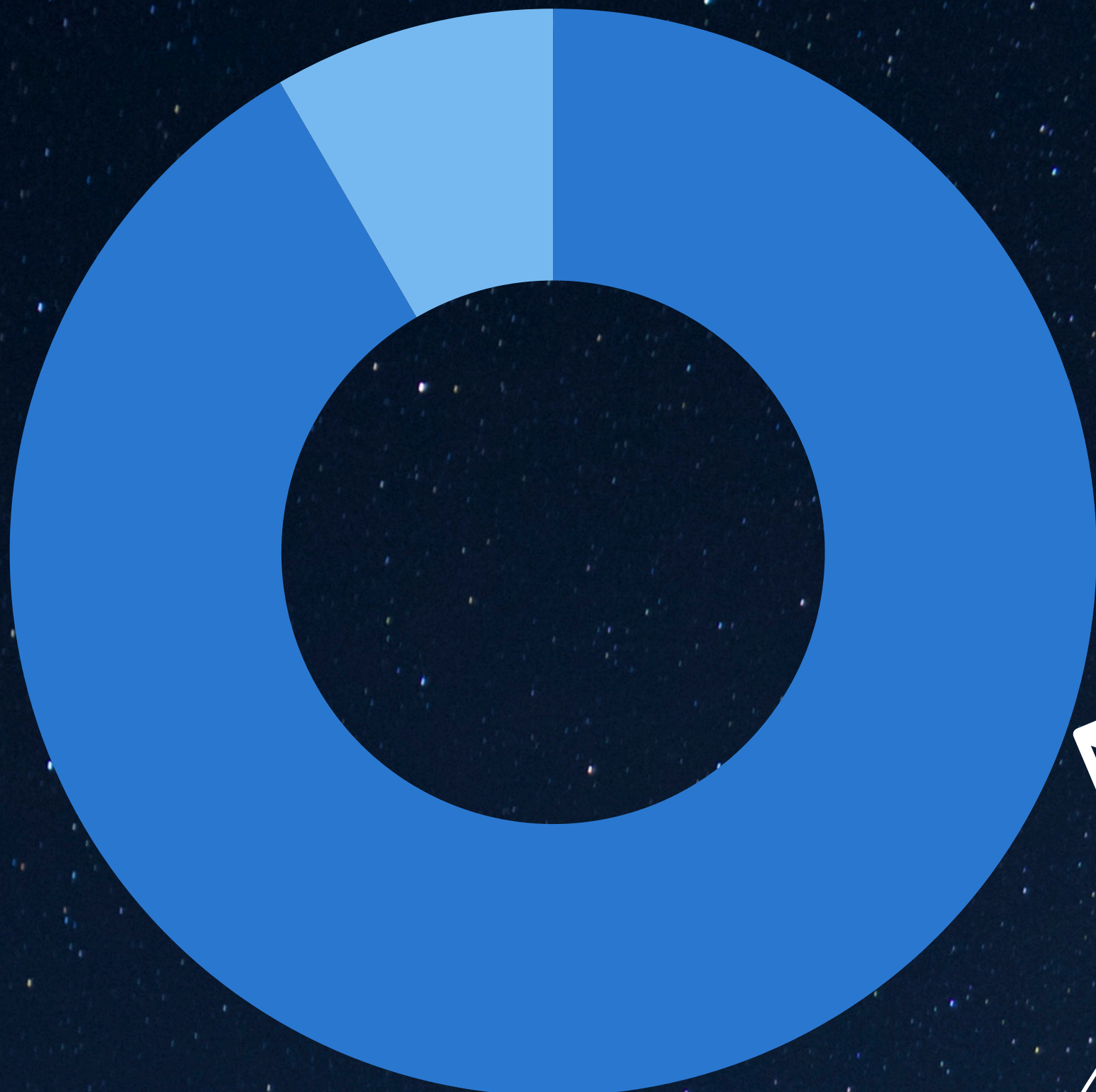


Who's missing?

- Eastern red bats were the least detected species
- Big brown bats (becoming more common in New Brunswick) were not detected



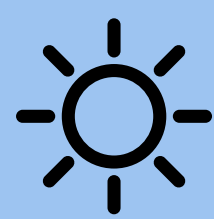
Migrating bats
8.4%



Hibernating bats
91.6%



The majority of bat species identified were hibernating bats



Clearer evidence of migratory bat presence in NS during the summer



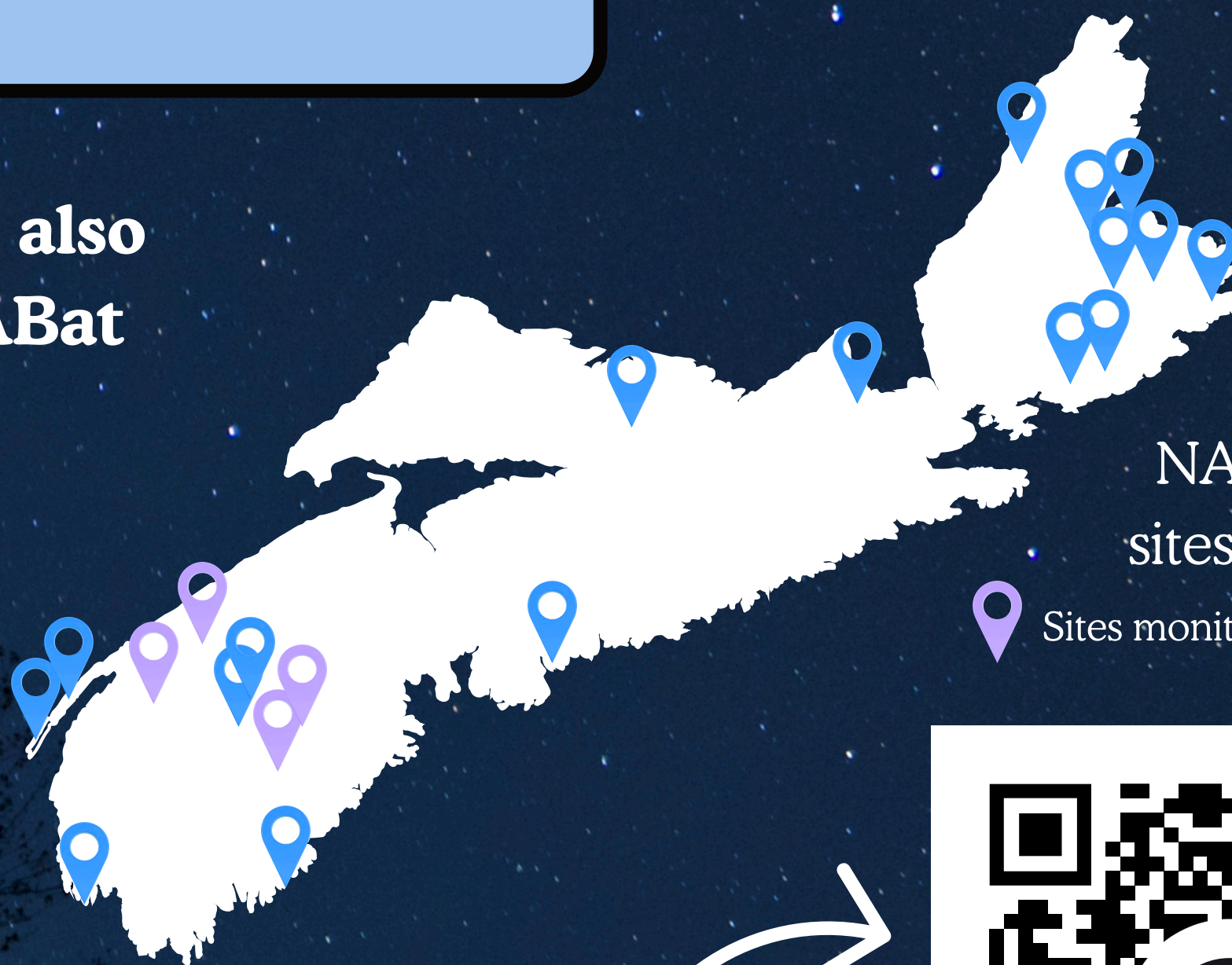
Migratory bat activity was higher along the coast than inland

Key Findings

- Average bat activity has increased from 2021 to 2025
- Little brown bats most commonly observed bat
- Tricolored and migratory bat species were observed more than anticipated
- Migratory bat species prefer coastal areas
- No big brown bats detected

Other organizations in NS are also monitoring bats under the NABat program:

- Kejimikujik National Park
- NS Department of Natural Resources
- Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative
- More!



NABat study sites across NS.

 Sites monitored in this study



Want to help? Report bat sightings at
www.batconservation.ca

