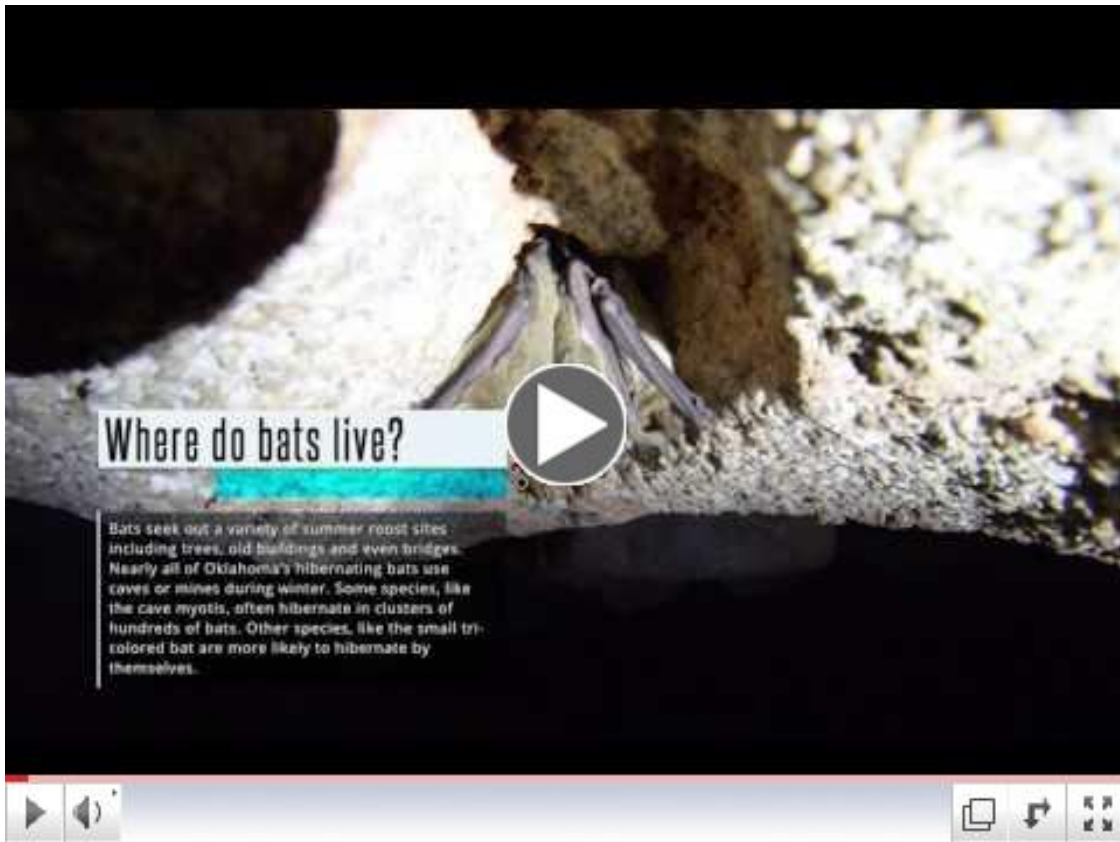


The Wild Side!



Hanging Out With Hibernating Bats

Oklahoma's 14 species of overwintering bats have congregated in caves across the state to hibernate and wait for the spring flush of insects. Bat biologists and citizen scientists are taking advantage of this period of inactivity by going underground and estimating the number of hibernating bats. Nearly 161,000 bats (a majority of which are cave myotis) have been counted so far in four western Oklahoma caves.

[Experience the winter surveys](#)

Species Spotlight: Woodchuck

Credited for their ability to predict spring's arrival, woodchucks (also known as groundhogs) will soon be emerging from



their eastern Oklahoma burrows, regardless of the Groundhog Day forecast.

[Learn more in the Wildlife Department's Field Guide](#)



Winter Bird Surveys with OKC Zoo

Longtime conservation partners, the OKC Zoo and Wildlife Department recently joined forces to survey the winter birds of Deep Fork and Okmulgee WMAs. The sharp-eyed team surveyed for a combined total of 27 hours and racked up an impressive 56 species on the management areas.



[See more photos from the survey and get the full bird list](#)

Lopping Redcedars for Wildlife Habitat

A plague to much of Oklahoma's landscape, eastern redcedars have a reputation for spreading into prairies, woodlands and even backyard wildscapes. Lopping young redcedars below the lowest growing branch is one way to rid your wildscape of these native but encroaching trees.



[Learn more about redcedars and how Oklahoma Christian School helped restore Arcadia Conservation Education Area](#)

Surveying Three Ozark Highland Rivers

Wildlife Diversity biologists are continuing to survey the Neosho, Spring and Elk Rivers in the northeastern corner of the state. So far, they've documented 61 species of fish and freshwater mussels, 11 of which are considered to be of greatest conservation need. These survey results are the most current assessment of species of greatest conservation need in this three river system to date.



[See more photos of fish from the Neosho, Spring and Elk Rivers](#)

February is a Month for Frogs

Even though it's only February, ponds, wetlands and lakes across the state are starting to boom with the peeping, snoring and laughing calls of breeding frogs and toads. The 13 species documented at Red Slough Wildlife Management Area are joining the chorus, adding to the WMA's noisy nightlife.

[Find out which frogs are jumping at Red Slough WMA and learn how to identify these croaking amphibians by their call](#)



Calendar of Events

Tulsa Audubon Society - After Work Beginning Birding

March 8, 2017
4:30 - 6 p.m.
Ray Herral Nature Center
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

Red Slough Birding Convention

May 6-9, 2017
Idabel, Oklahoma



The Wild Side e-newsletter is a project of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation's Wildlife Diversity Program. The Wildlife Diversity Program monitors, manages and promotes rare, declining, and endangered wildlife, as well as common wildlife not fished or hunted. It is primarily funded by the sales of Wildlife Department license plates, publication sales and private donors.

Get involved with the Wildlife Diversity Program and learn more about Oklahoma's nongame wildlife at: wildlifedepartment.com

follow | tag your ride | support

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, PO BOX 53465, Oklahoma City, OK 73152

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)