



# Tiny Bats, Big Delays:

The Role of Acoustic Surveys in  
Keeping Iowa-Infrastructure  
Projects on Track



FELSBURG  
HOLT &  
ULLEVIG  
connecting & enhancing communities



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## Bats of Iowa:


Nine Species

Listed as Endangered

- Indiana
- Northern Long-Eared
- Tri-Colored (*pending*)

Not Listed

- Big Brown
- Little Brown (*future potential*)
- Silver Haired
- Evening
- Eastern Red
- Hoary



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## Acoustic Surveys

- Non-invasive and quick set up
- Streamlined agency coordination
- Deployment of specialized detector
- Four nights; compliant within parameters of guidelines per location
- Four detector nights per 1-km of suitable habitat



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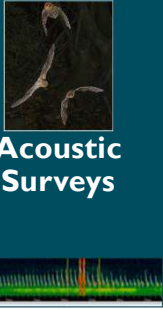
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## Acoustic Surveys

- Proximity to woodlands and water
- Known Maternity Roosts
- Demolition of Structures
- Bridge or culvert work
- Within known occupation areas
- Tree clearing in suitable habitat – 3” dbh
  - (April – October)



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## Construction Timing



For projects involving tree removal, Iowa follows seasonal cutting windows to protect bat species, especially those federally and state-listed (e.g., Indiana bat, Northern long-eared bat).



Permitted Tree Clearing Window: October 1 to March 31 (Location Dependent)  
Outside this window, tree clearing is generally prohibited without surveys or mitigation measures.



Adjacency to Hibernacula - within 0.25 miles, disturbances of any kind.



Restrictions may involve timing with activities near maternity roosts during pup season (June 1-July 31)



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## So, what if bats are detected?

Through the collection and analysis of acoustic data we may determine if there are **individual/multiple** bats and whether they are **present frequently** or simply **passing through**.






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## Why acoustic surveys?

How can they help project timing?

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### Protect your project timeline

#### Construction Delays vs. Early Surveys

Project  
A

No surveys conducted  
Habitat present  
Project delayed 4-6 months,  
assumed presence of species

Project  
B

Surveys completed  
Habitat present  
Project on time with early  
coordination and flexible  
scheduling  
· No protected species detected  
· Occupation vs. Migration  
· Endangered Species Act -  
Compliance




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## Construction letting early in spring?

Are protected species present?  
Is there suitable habitat present or adjacent?

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## Bridge and Culvert Work







When can a bridge be removed without conflicts?




Are protected bats present during active season?  
Is there a documented hibernacula?



Bridge determination survey:  
*Negative survey valid for two years.*



If present, assess exclusionary devices and deterrent for occupation.



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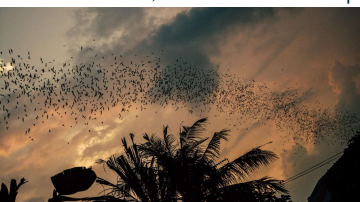
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## Acoustic Surveys:

**Early coordination** is the key to project timeline integrity, avoiding inconvenient restrictions, and environmental compliance.





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