



Instructions

SC Bat Watch!

How to Fill Out Form:

Surveyor and Roost information (Page 1)

The first page includes contact information for the surveyor. This is important if we need to contact you with any questions. This page also includes landowner information. If you are the landowner, just write “Same as surveyor” in that space. If you are not the landowner, be sure to obtain permission if you need to enter the property to conduct the count.

Give your roost a name (no more than 3 words) and fill out location information with the closest address. Ideally, use a GPS (if you know the datum it is set on, record this) or a smart phone to obtain latitude and longitude. You can use Google Maps (on your phone or desktop) to get the coordinates by dropping a pin on the location. If that’s not possible, print a map and circle the roost location. Circle the kind of structure that the roost is located in.

Record the species using the roost ONLY if known. See the SC Bat ID guide on the Bat Watch page for guidance.

Count information (Page 2)

The second page is where you will record your count and other important information on the survey day. We ask that you complete a minimum of two counts each season. If you make any additional counts just attach extra copies of the Emergence Count data sheet.

Record the:

- a. **Date**
- b. **Sky and wind codes** (codes are on bottom of form).
- c. **Start temperature**, in degrees Fahrenheit.
- d. **Start & end time**, using 24 hr time. To do this, add 12 to any time after 1 PM, so 6 PM = 18:00.
- e. **Total bats counted** and **technique used**, which will usually be visual.
- f. In comments section, please record any **unusual observations** as well as the **time the first bat emerges** and any **additional surveyors**. The form page has space for 2 counts. If you conduct more than 2, please copy more forms.

Conducting the Emergence Count:

1. Scout out your site ahead of time. Make sure you identify all possible exits for the bats to emerge from. Look for discolored areas around chimneys, eaves and soffits, or look for guano. If there's more than one exit, you may need to bring along a friend to count with you. If you have more than one box, roost or place bats may be emerging, invite friends and assign at least one person per site.
2. Choose a night that is above 60° F, with no more than a moderate wind, and sky codes of 4 or less.
3. Bring a thermometer, paper and pencil, and emergence count data sheet.
4. The night of your count, arrive 30 minutes before sunset. Set up chairs so that the bats will be silhouetted against the sky as they emerge. Stay quiet and don't shine any lights at, or in, the roost.
5. Record the starting temperature and use the chart at the bottom of the Emergence Count Data Sheet, to make your observation of the sky and wind conditions.
6. Count the bats as they emerge. We recommend using a tally counter or free tally counter app to help you keep track. Assign at least one person per box, roost or exit.
7. If any bats reenter the roost, try to keep track of them and subtract from your final count. If there are large numbers of bats, tally by tens. When counting large colonies, it can be helpful to take a video recording for better count accuracy.
8. Emergence from the roost usually lasts from 45 min to 1 hour. Stop counting when it is too dark to see.
9. Remember to have fun! Bring the kids or a friend. Enjoy your evening out in nature!

Please email a picture or scan of data sheets

by **September 1st** to:

BatWatch@dnr.sc.gov

OR you can mail data sheets to:

Jennifer Kindel
SC Department of Natural Resources
124 Wildlife Drive
Union, SC 29379

