

BATS NEED YOU TOO!!

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Learn about bats and teach others.

Buy or build a bat house for your garden.

Plant papaya for fruit bats to eat and be willing to share your mangoes and naseberries with neighbourhood bats. Farmers can learn ways to control bat damage without harming bats.

Seek information about how to reduce the "nuisance factor" without harming the animals. Bats can be removed from buildings using proper humane methods. Never try to move bats from buildings during the summer when baby bats are helpless.

Don't disturb roosting bats in caves or trees.

Join the National Trust and Bat Conservation International or the British Bat Conservation Trust. Your contributions help them to provide the research and information that we need.

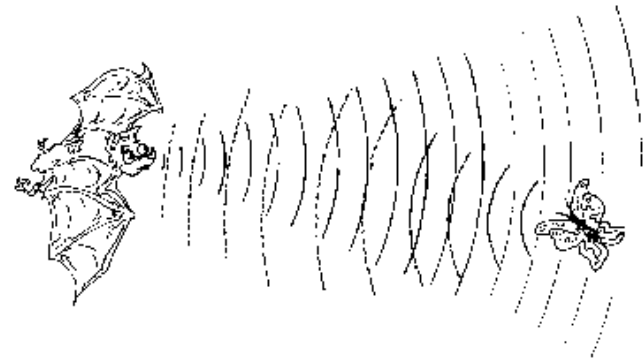
Volunteer to help. Participate in bat population counts. Give slide shows and talks to interested local groups. Help us to care for orphaned or injured bats.

If you find an injured bat, don't touch it. Call **917-BIRD** or Veterinarian Dr. Brenda Bush at 949-0787.

For problems or questions about bats, to arrange a free visit to approve a bat house location, or a free slide show for your school or group, call **917-BIRD** or the **National Trust at 949-0121** visit www.caymanwildlife.org or www.nationaltrust.org.ky or Bat Conservation International at www.batcon.org



REMEMBER: BATS NEED FRIENDS!!!



WHO NEEDS BATS?

YOU DO!

Turn the page to find out why!

WHY BATS?

Some people think bats are cute, some people don't! But cuteness is not a factor! There are important reasons to save bats.

Bats contribute to the balance of nature. They have important roles to play. They are part of our BIODIVERSITY.

Our most common bat, *Molossus molossus*, is somewhat unfairly called the Rat Bat. It can eat 2,000 insects in one night - not only mosquitoes, but also beetles and moths that are crop pests.

Bats plant seeds. They are important in maintaining the health of our native woodlands.

Bats pollinate flowers, especially large, night-blooming blossoms.

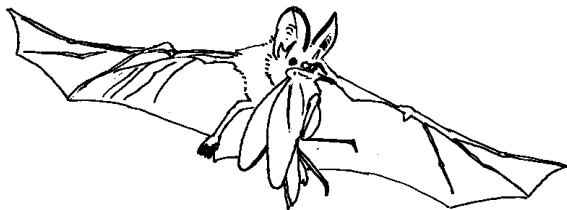
Fruit bats "clean-up" excess and overripe fruit on farms and in forests. This prevents the breeding of fruit flies and fungus that harm crops.

All over the world, people are beginning to recognize the importance of bats and take steps to protect them.

Scientists think bats may hold clues to longer life, to dissolving blood clots in heart patients, to perfecting low-temperature surgical procedures, and to developing sonar navigation for the blind.

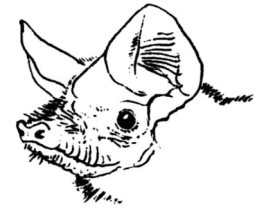
Bats are among the most misunderstood, least appreciated, and most endangered of all animals.

We, in the Cayman Islands, cannot afford to lose this interesting and important animal.



DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

Bats are the Cayman Islands' only native mammals. We have nine species and one endemic (lives ONLY here) subspecies.



Bats can be removed from the roof space easily without harming the bats or the roof. There is never a reason to kill bats.

You should never remove bats from the roof between the months of June and November, when flightless baby bats are present.

Bats living in roofs or bat houses eat **only** insects. Fruit bats are a completely different species and never live in roofs or bat houses.

Bats help fruit farmers by controlling insect crop pests and fungus.

Bats are not aggressive. They don't attack people or pets, or tangle in hair. Bats do not eat wood, harm houses, or invade human food stores.

Bats in the Cayman Islands do not carry rabies and there are no vampire bats in the Cayman Islands.

Bats bear only one young per year. The mothers nurse their babies and care for them. Bat babies are born in late spring or early summer.

Bats cannot build nests or homes for themselves; they must find a cavity or a crevice in a tree, building, rocky cliff or cave.

Bats are not rodents. They are more closely related to monkeys than mice and are the only flying mammals.

Bats spend hours grooming. Bat guano is an excellent fertilizer.

Bats are not blind, but they use ultrasonic sound waves to navigate and find prey at night. This ultrasonic sound is called echolocation.

