

Help Save Our Bats



Bats need our help, and local action is key! Here are a few bat conservation strategies, and several ways to encourage others to support bats.

SUPPORT HABITATS

Lack of suitable habitat is a major issue for bats, especially mother bats trying to raise pups in the summer! Encourage property owners to leave dead trees standing and to install

bat boxes

which can help provide crucial habitats for bats. Habitat support can be done safely on residential and public lands for little or no cost!

HIGHLIGHT THEIR BENEFITS

Make it clear that US farmers save **billions** of dollars on pest control annually due to insect-eating bats. In fact, a modest colony of only 100 little brown bats can consume

250k mosquitoes

in just one night (Brittingham & Williams, 2000)! Bats are also important pollinators for 400+ plant species; and as prey for animals like owls & hawks.



REDUCE PESTICIDE USE

Bats are sensitive to chemicals used on local environments, especially pesticides. Pesticides build up in bats' bodies and cause major health issues and death. In fact, bats are

30 times

more susceptible to pesticides than rats (Shore et al., 1996)! Help by reducing pesticide use or opting for **mammal-friendly options**.

ADVOCATE FOR MIGRATORS

Wind turbines are an excellent source of renewable energy, but can have devastating impacts on migratory bat species like hoary bats. It was estimated that in 2012 in the US alone

880,000 bats

were killed by wind turbines! Let groups like the American Wind Energy Association know that you **support turbine reforms** like "feathering".

DEMYSTIFY DISEASE

Bats are often feared for their association with many diseases like rabies and COVID. Inform people that bats transmission to humans is actually extremely low! In fact,

0 cases

of COVID-19 transmission have been confirmed between humans & bats (do Vale et al., 2020)! **Fear-killing bats is unnecessary.**

FIGHT WHITE NOSE SYNDROME

Millions of bats in the US have died due to White Nose Syndrome, which is caused by a fungus. This fungal infection impacts bats while they hibernate, causing colonies to suffer up to

98% mortality

rates in some caves! Tell hikers to help stop the spread by **thoroughly cleaning hiking gear** before and after entering bat hibernacula.

ENCOURAGE EDUCATION

Humans protect what they love. The more people know about bats, the more they have a chance to fall in love with them! Encourage everyone to learn more about bats online at

MerlinTuttle.org

and Batcon.org, and share what they learn. Children can also learn to love bats by reading books like **Stellaluna!**

