

BAT WORLD

— SANCTUARY —



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Printed on 20% recycled paper certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, using 100% vegetable based ink. **NOTE:** The articles in this magazine are written by the same humans who also care for the bats. Although we try very hard, a few typos always seem to slip through. Please bear with us and overlook any mistakes.

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One of five Island flying foxes that arrived this year for permanent sanctuary. Read their story on page 21. Photo by Amanda Lollar.



Bat World is published annually by Bat World Sanctuary, a 501c3 non-profit, accredited sanctuary. Donations allow Bat World to continue its mission of rescue and conservation. To obtain more information about bats and how they make our world a better place please visit batworld.org.

To inquire about local rescue, make a donation, sponsor a bat, purchase merchandise or sign up for emails, please contact us at:

E-mail: info@batworld.org

Phone: 940-325-3404

Mail:

Bat World Sanctuary
299 High Point Road
Weatherford, TX 76088

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2024 Year End Letter

Dear Supporters,

One of our most time-consuming rescues occurred this year (see page 7). To elaborate, about a decade ago I encountered random bats with deteriorating wing membranes. Nothing conclusive was discovered by pathology testing until a few years ago. As no one else had seen the condition, I named it Wing Wasting Syndrome (WWS). Fast forward to 2022, when a German veterinarian contacted me concerning a bat with WWS. I provided the protocol to save the bat and she started treatment. She later emailed the results of a new treatment she had started, a medication only available in Europe called 'Clever Fungus'. The medication cured WWS entirely on the bat she was treating, in only two days! Clever Fungus is not available for import to the U.S., so I researched the ingredient and found a cream called Biogamma, which contains *Pythium oligandrum*, the same ingredient in Clever Fungus. It is sold and shipped from Poland. When tested, both products gave the exact same cure on affected bats in our care. So there is now a cure for WWS; renamed Wing Wasting Disease. As usual, we make all of our new discoveries and treatments available to bat rescuers worldwide. We also have Biogamma available to rescuers in need, which we sell at cost, so it does not have to be purchased and shipped from Poland.

This year we joined forces with THLN (Texas Humane Legislative Network), an organization of dedicated lawyers who work to pass laws to protect and help animals in need (see page 40). Together, we are working on a TX Bat Protection Bill to pass better laws to protect bats. Our focus is to concentrate on this effort and move full steam ahead in 2025!

This past year we took on several new projects, the biggest one being our Learning Center (see Page 37). A few projects involved some unforeseen expenses, such as the cost for our water bill, which increased twice over. To combat this, we are installing a new double filtration system for our pond water to be used during the rainy season. The new system will cost \$10,000, thankfully paying for itself in a year. Our internet bill for our entire complex, including housing for staff, has also increased to the point where it is no longer affordable, so we are installing a tower that will reduce our bill by 75% monthly. To top it off, our 5-year electric service contract ran out, and even with the cheapest new service we could find, our bill increased almost 50%. Our bat food bill almost doubled as well, due to inflation. Lastly, our live-stream bat cams took a hit as the camera company stopped the ability to share the stream. However, we made lemons into lemonade by switching to a new company that not only has much more clarity, we are also able to stream a cam to Youtube; bringing in a bit of ad revenue for the organization.

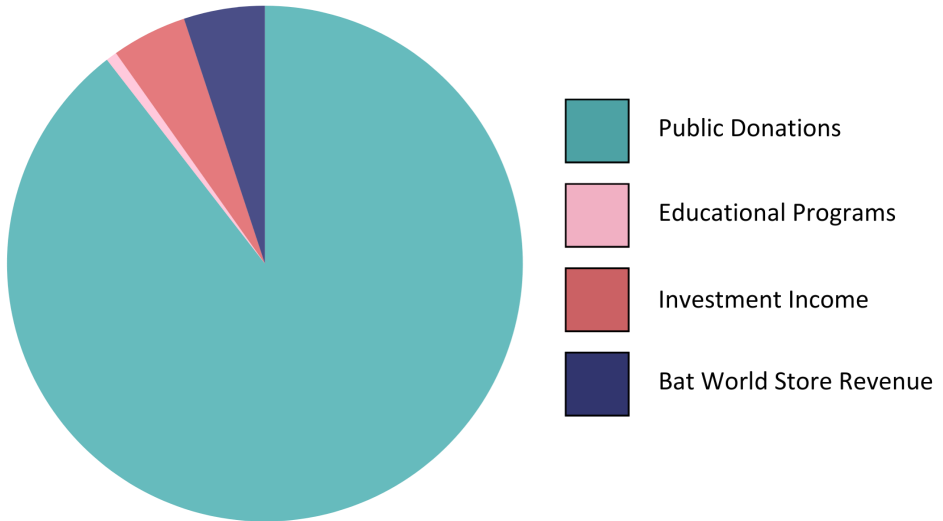
All in all, despite our financial struggles this year, our new projects brought about much needed improvement. Every obstacle we overcome, and every goal we accomplish, makes it better for bats across the globe. Thank you for being part of the Bat World family, for caring and supporting the work we do. We could not do it without you!



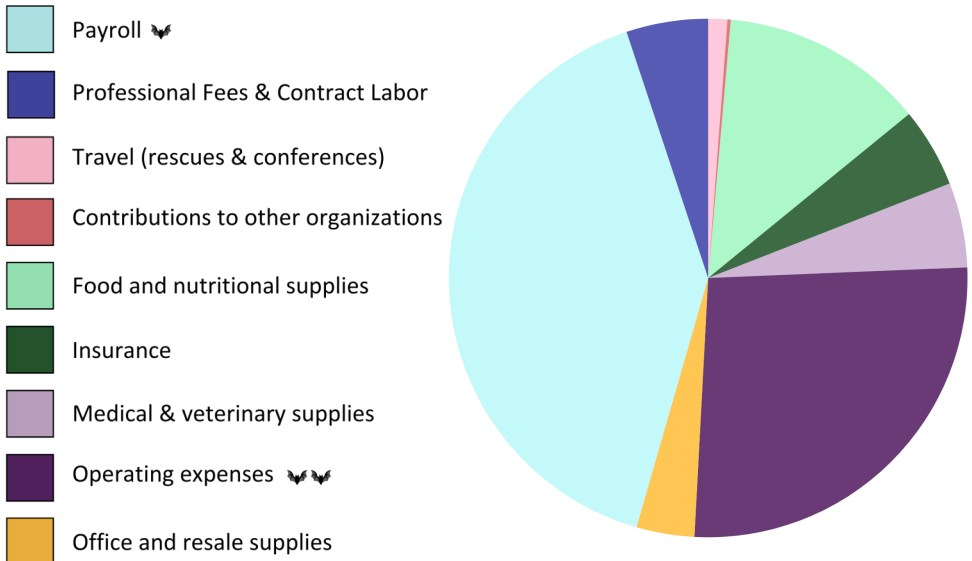
Amanda Lollar

2024 Financial Accounting

Bat World 2024 Income



Bat World 2024 Expenses



🦇 **Payroll:** Due to an increase in permanent bat residents, we hired an additional caregiver this year. We employ 4 full-time and 3 part-time staff members, all of whom work tirelessly to ensure the bats are well cared for. Investment income goes directly to payroll.

🦇🦇 **Operating expenses:** This category includes utilities, building maintenance, repair and improvements, including a new generator, incubators, a new oxygen machine, cleaning supplies, website hosting and upgrades and enrichment items for the bats.

Breakdown of Income & Expenses

Income

Public Donations	\$453,252.99
Educational Programs	\$3,504.00
Investment Income	\$23,904.26
Bat World Store Revenue	\$25,726.00

Expenses

Payroll	\$197,388.45
Profession Fees and Contract Labor	\$24,869.46
Travel (rescues and conferences)	\$5,808.14
Contributions to other organizations	\$990.76
Food and nutritional supplies	\$62,034.02
Insurance	\$24,217.16
Medical and veterinary supplies	\$25,759.76
Operating expenses	\$129,304.09
Office and resale supplies	\$17,608.96

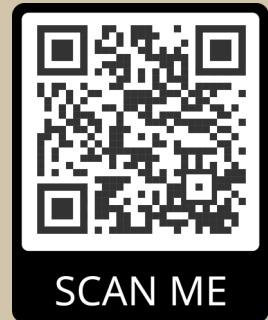
Total income \$506,387.25

***Total expenses \$487,980.80**

Expenses listed above do not include construction costs on our Learning Center. You can find out more about our Learning Center on page 37.

This accounting reflects 2024 through the third quarter; it does not reflect the entire year. Please see "Annual Reports" at batworld.org to view year-end IRS 990s, or scan the QR code.

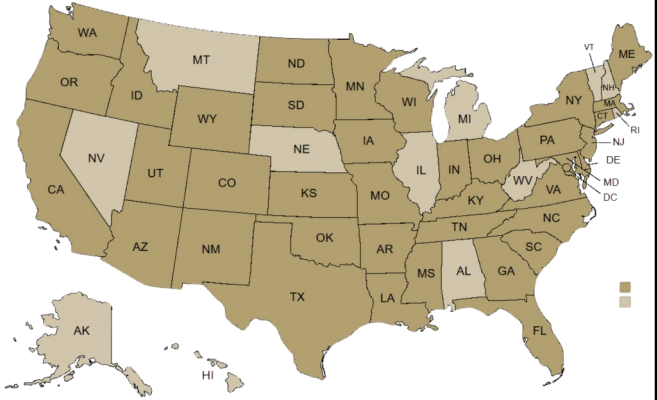
Scan the QR code to see our previous annual reports.



2024 Rescues

Your contributions enabled us to save **1,044 orphaned, injured and displaced bats in the U.S., as well as Bulgaria, Italy, Austria, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, the UK, Taiwan, Canada, Scotland, and France.** Although a few of these bats were not releasable, over **1,014** bats now fly free because you bought their food, medicine, and resources critical to our rescue efforts. The bats featured in this section represent a few of the lives saved through your support. For a complete list please visit batworld.org/rescue-log.

83% of our rescues were from the United States, and this year we helped residents with rescue calls in **38 states** (dark tan) and assisted with exclusions in **12 states** (light tan).



We take multiple calls daily from people all over the USA who have found bats in need of help and connect them with their nearest rescuers. We also provide humane exclusion advice to businesses and homeowners with colonies roosting in buildings. Scan the QR code to visit our rescue log!

97%

of bats were successfully rehabilitated and released in 2024!



That means about 4 out of every 5 bats rescued get to fly free once again!

One Week, 146 Bats



On July 25th, our team began receiving reports of stranded bats scattered around the nearby town of Mineral Wells, Texas. Little did we know, the few initial calls would eventually result in dozens of bats arriving daily for lifesaving care, with staff working around the clock to save as many as they could. In the following week, we had over 143 Mexican free-tail bats coming through our doors, all suffering from wing wasting, a devastating and painful bacterial infection that destroys wing membrane and leaves bats stranded. This bacterium is harmless to humans, but it thrives in dark, damp spaces, such as in the attics of crawlspaces of buildings with decaying wooden beams. This is where bats typically contract the disease. Once the infection sets in, bats cannot fly. They leave the roost and end up grounded and helpless, with only a brief window of time in which to be saved. It was all hands on deck to save as many bats as possible.

The first few calls were the normal calls expected during the summer months. A bat trapped inside of a local pawnshop, another found grounded in a homeowners backyard. Nothing at all unusual, especially in July when native juvenile bats are just learning how to fly. For the first few weeks of flying, young bats have a tendency to be found in odd places as they learn to navigate the world for the very first time. But then the calls came pouring in with grounded bats being found in the streets and roads in the downtown area of Mineral Wells, which is home to numerous colonies of bats.

Staff spent nearly a week bouncing back and forth between answering phone calls, handling daily animal care, and feeding and caring for new arrivals, all while making runs around town to pick up grounded bats. In the hours between and after animal care, staff, interns and volunteers were all walking the downtown area to pick up and save as many bats as they could, often staying out well past midnight to monitor the local urban colonies. After the first night, we were able to narrow down which building the afflicted colony resided in. As the bats emerged after dark, most were ending up in the street and on the sidewalks and even in the road, where sadly, some were run over. Staff waiting below would rush out to save them, while volunteers would stop and direct traffic away from the terrified animals.

During this time, social media reports of our efforts began circulating, and soon members of the community were walking the downtown area to help us locate bats. They would call us with the location of each bat found, and a team member would be sent over. Over the course of the week, 143 bats in total had been found suffering from the infection. For them, this was only the start of a very long journey of healing.



Addison McCool

Wing wasting, a painful bacterial wing infection of the wing membrane. This infection results in blisters, loss of wing tissue, and leaves a bat unable to fly and forage for insects.

Wing wasting initially strips bats of their flight ability, and without treatment, will cause sepsis and death. Bats cannot survive this infection in the wild. They can't forage for insects, they can't find water, and they can't return to their roost. Thankfully, there is a chance to save them when they are found in time.

Our caregivers immediately started the bats on a combination of pain medication, oral antibiotics and Biogamma cream on their wings, which destroys surface bacteria. These medications run hundreds of dollars at a time. Each bat was also hand-fed twice daily while also training them to self-feed. The care these bats required took hours-upon-hours each day for almost two months. When combined with our usual bat care load our dedicated staff were working nearly non-stop.



Addison McCool

Intern Kate Citrin, using her rock climbing skills to save a stranded Mexican free-tail clinging to the side of a building.



Natalie Perez

Staff member Addison McCool, and intern Lulu Colby, rescuing a bat trapped high on the side of a downtown building.



As of now, we are thrilled to report that we have successfully integrated the wing-wasting bats into our flight enclosure. These bats are still healing and doing wonderfully (scan the QR code to see!). As for the affected colony downtown, they are doing well, and the risk of infection seems to be over.

We are immensely grateful to all the people that helped us during this emergency event: our incredible volunteers, interns, and staff and of course, our caring community members. We also want to thank the rescue organizations that helped by taking in some of these bats for long-term care, and who continue to do incredible work in saving these magnificent animals!

Our work can only be accomplished with the help of our donors, who fund critically needed emergency supplies like medications, pain management, mealworms, nutritional supplements and so much more. Our impact is a direct result of the support we receive, and for that we are extremely grateful!





Branch

Egyptian fruit bat

Addison McCool

Branch is a young Egyptian fruit bat with a sad story of survival. He was purchased from the cruel exotic pet trade, along with three other fruit bats, by an individual in Virginia. The person who bought the bats then went on vacation and paid someone to pet-sit. However, the pet-sitter never showed up, leaving the bats trapped in a cage, without food and water. After arriving home, the owner discovered three bats deceased in the cage, with Branch, clinging to life, being the lone survivor. He rushed Branch to a veterinary clinic where a wonderful veterinary technician convinced the owner to surrender the bat. The technician took Branch home and cared for him, bringing him back to health. During this time, the technician's daughter fell in love with the sweet bat, who liked to cling to one particular branch, so she named him Branch.

We arranged to drive to Virginia and bring Branch to Bat World Sanctuary. He arrived safely, and despite being afraid, he allowed caregivers to gently remove him from his transport carrier and give him a full examination. He was undersized for his age, something common in bats from the pet trade as they are often taken away from their mothers far too young.

After his checkup, we transferred Branch to our quarantine enclosure to await neutering. Once healed, he was allowed to join the general population in the large indoor-outdoor fruit bat enclosure where he met dozens of rescued friends with similar stories.

With us, Branch will never see the inside of a birdcage, or be without food, and water, or friends, ever again.



Natalie Perez

Graham

Eastern red bat

Despite being able to swim (as with most bats), that wasn't Graham's intention on the day he was found. Likely having dipped down while in flight for a quick drink of water, he miscalculated his trajectory and wound up treading water to exhaustion until someone noticed him. He was scooped out of the water with a flip-flop and placed in the only thing the finder had handy at the time—a graham cracker box. The finder then drove a

soaked, very upset little Graham, to Bat World for care. He was uninjured, but our caregivers discovered he seemed to have limited use of his thumbs, which makes it difficult for him to hang and groom properly. We suspect his thumbs may have been damaged in his initial attempts to climb the concrete walls of the pool. Graham will stay with us because of this disability, receiving lifetime care.

Benny was discovered hiding out in the windowsill of a local motel, exhausted from trying to find his way out of the room. When juvenile bats start learning to fly, they often explore cracks and crevices, and sometimes wind up trapped inside of buildings. This was the fate of little Benny, but thankfully he was spotted before he

succumbed to dehydration. A few injections of warmed electrolytes and a good meal later, he was feeling much better and making full use of our flight enclosure. Two days later Benny was able to fly off into the night to hunt for insects like moths, flying ants and beetles.



Natalie Perez

Travis

Mexican free-tail



Addison McCool

Travis joined us from Houston, early in the year, after falling from his roost on a particularly cold day. While Mexican free-tails typically migrate to Mexico every winter, in some areas of the U.S. they are only gone for a month or two. Some colonies further south don't migrate at all. Travis was a part of an urban colony that roosted beneath a bridge and stayed over the winter, but this year a sudden cold snap left the bats under the bridge exposed and in peril.

Travis, along with many of his roost-mates, went into torpor because of the low temperature. Torpor is a semi-hibernation that helps an animal conserve energy during cold temperatures. However, torpor only works in above-freezing temperatures. In this case, when sub-freezing temperatures hit, the bats in torpor went crashing to the pavement below. Over 200 cold stunned bats were collected and taken into care.

The majority were in good shape and could be released once the weather warmed, but Travis, along with a few friends, needed additional care as they displayed neurological symptoms, likely from hitting their heads on the concrete when they fell. Travis quickly became a staff favorite, as his enthusiasm for mealworms was unmatched. At each feeding, Travis is always the first in line, often crawling into a caregiver's hand to be fed. Travis suffers from balance issues that alter his flight ability, so he is a permanent resident at Bat World Sanctuary. He is hand-fed twice daily, to his heart's delight.

Peanut

Mexican free-tail



Natalie Perez

While unloading a semi-truck at a warehouse in Galveston, Texas, workers made a surprising discovery. Trapped under plastic, which was wrapped around a loaded pallet, was a tiny bat. The bat peered out at the workers in fear while hunkering down under the cellophane, seemingly trying his best to disappear. No one had any idea how long “Peanut” had been trapped, or where he had first hitched a ride, but he showed signs of being starved, extremely dehydrated, and weak after what likely seemed like an endless journey.

Thankfully for Peanut, warehouse employee Jason was an avid bat lover, and he quickly calmed the other workers. He carefully cut the plastic and used a soft cloth to contain Peanut and move him to a box that contained a small jar lid of water. It was surely much more comfortable than the pallet of cans

that Peanut was previously strapped to.

Transport to Bat World Sanctuary was another long trip, taking two days with multiple volunteers coordinating to help with the drive. Peanut was in critical condition at the start of his journey, but an injection of life-saving fluids saved his life. By the time he arrived to us, he was fully hydrated and his eyes were bright. Our caregivers reintroduced him to solid foods over the next few days. Peanut quickly gained weight and soon was back to good health. As we have no way of knowing where Peanut came from or where his colony is, he will stay at the sanctuary as a permanent resident. Today he lives with over 80 other non-releasable Mexican free-tails in our flight enclosure, where he can safely fly, hunt mealworms, and socialize as much as he likes.



Honey, a hoary bat, had a really rough couple of days before being found by a good Samaritan. She had suffered a severe wing break and wound up grounded in a field. She was likely trapped on the ground for several days before being found.

On arrival, Honey was in terrible shape. She was emaciated, dehydrated, and in immense pain be-

cause of her broken wing. Pain medication was quickly administered, as well as warmed fluid injections, antibiotics and hydrolyzed protein to help revitalize her as quickly as possible. Within a few hours, Honey appeared to be an entirely new bat. She went from defeated and terrified, to hopeful and curious, peering around her enclosure and chattering at caregivers.

Unfortunately, Honey's injured wing resulted in her no longer being able to fly. She is now a permanent resident and will receive lifetime care with us.



Toby

Pallid bat



Kate Rugroden

Toby, a pallid bat found in a grocery store patio in Midlothian, Texas, was one of the biggest surprises this year. He arrived at our Bat World Midcities rescue center dehydrated, emaciated, and burdened with a dozen ticks on arrival. He was also at least 300 miles from home, and we had no way of knowing where his colony might be. After the ticks were removed, he received antibiotics in order to prevent any complications from the ticks. He also received small but frequent meals of warmed, soft food to assist in the recovery of his fragile body. Toby is non-releasable so he will receive lifetime sanctuary in the care of Bat World Midcities.

Tina

Mexican free-tail



Addison McCool

Tina, a young Mexican free-tail, was confined in a local department store. We were unsure how long she had been trapped inside, but the poor girl arrived at our facility in rough shape. She was dehydrated, emaciated, and filthy. After a few days of supportive care, Tina made a huge comeback and quickly gained weight. Within a few weeks, she regained her strength and was released to return to her colony.

Scrumpy

Short-tailed fruit bat



One of our recent rescues included a number of pregnant short-tailed fruit bats. During the morning chores, staff came across an infant short-tailed fruit bat pup hanging all alone in our flight enclosure. He was cold, with no mother in sight. With a change in environment sometimes new mothers do not realize their life has taken a huge change for the better, and occasionally abandon their pups due to stress.

A caregiver immediately rushed the baby into the clinic and warmed him in an incubator. The little pup was named "Scrumpy" by staff. While being evaluated, Scrumpy seemed fascinated by his new surroundings, looking around the room and wiggling his ears as volunteers spoke to him.

He enjoyed his first hand-fed meal of warmed milk formula while wrapped in a "mommy roll." Mommy rolls are plush, rolled towels that bat pups can be tucked into, simulating their mothers wings wrapped around them.

For over a month, caregivers waited on Scrumpy hand-and-foot, providing everything the little guy needed to thrive and grow. As he matured, he began trying to fly, flapping his wings as hard as he could while hanging stationary. This behavior allows bat pups to develop the muscles needed for flight.

After Scrumpy was older, he was neutered, and was then able to rejoin his colony in our fruit bat enclosure, where he was welcomed back into the non-releasable colony.

Curly Shirley

Mexican free-tail

Natalie Perez



Of all the bats that we cared for in 2024, Curly Shirley may just have had the roughest start of all. After losing her mother, she was found starving and critically dehydrated, desperately trying to find shelter on a hot sidewalk. She had crammed herself into a crack in the wall, hiding the best she could from the downtown crowds and the scorching sun. Eventually, a young girl and her mother found the bat in her hiding spot. They immediately called us and a staff member rushed downtown to save the little bat.

Upon intake, it was clear Curly Shirley was in dire straits. It had been some time since she lost her mother as she was seriously emaciated. Aside from her poor condition, she had a peculiar injury on her head. It appeared that Shirley had been bitten by a spider or a wasp, while she was trying to hide in the wall.

Over the next few weeks, Shirley began gaining weight, and her physical condition improved. However, the bite wound spread to encompass much of her head and ears. As healing took place, she lost most of her ear. It was a very long journey for her, but she eventually healed.

Curly Shirley is a sweet bat who looks forward to her twice-daily hand fed meals. Her unique appearance only adds to her charm. She will remain with us as a permanent resident as her damaged ears affect her echolocation ability, leaving her unable to forage for insects in the wild.

Gumdrop

Canyon bat



Anna Wright

A school staff member discovered Gumdrop, a lovely little canyon bat, flying through the school gymnasium with a few of her friends. Unfortunately, Gumdrop was left behind when she couldn't locate the exit. A kind teacher used a cloth to place Gumdrop into a box, then called us for help. Once she had arrived, our staff gave Gumdrop a quick check-

up and found that she was in great health, besides having missed a couple of meals. Gumdrop spent a few days with us, enjoying the all you can eat meal-worm buffet and gaining a bit of weight. When she was ready to go, we drove her back to the area in which she was found so she could have an easier time finding her original colony. Gumdrop sat high in a caregiver's gloved hand, ears wiggling back and forth as she took in the sounds of the evening, before taking off into the night sky as if she knew exactly where she was going.

Dot had a most unfortunate run in with a neighborhood cat. After heavy winds sent Dot plummeting to the ground, she found a cozy spot to hide, tucked into the bark of an old oak tree. She had likely planned to hide there, but a passing cat noticed her first. Thankfully, the property owner saw what was going on and rushed over to see how she could help. Finding little Dot, hiding and terrified, she moved the cat and called us for further guidance. We instructed her on how to safely coax Dot out from under the bark using a cloth and gloves, and once she had done so, she brought Dot to the sanctuary.

Although shaken up from her ordeal, Dot was very lucky. She had only sustained minor scratches and just needed rest and antibiotics before she could be sent on her way. Hopefully, Dot will be a bit more careful in choosing her next hiding spot.



Dot

Evening bat

Addison McCool

The Missouri Three

Egyptian fruit bats



Addison McCool

In April, staff members made an 11 hour trek to collect three Egyptian fruit bats that were a part of the cruel, exotic pet trade. Huey, Dewey, and Louie had spent their lives in a small, filthy wire enclosure, without the enrichment their intelligent minds so desperately needed. They lived this way for several years, watching other members of their colony die before ever having the chance to fly. By the time we became aware of their plight, only 3 of the original 7 bats remained.

The daughter of the owner of the bats inherited the task of caring for them after the owner's passing. Having little knowledge of bats, and seeing their poor living conditions, she contacted us in hopes of surrendering the bats. We quickly made arrangements to bring the bats to Bat World Sanctuary.

Although the trip back was long, the three bats snugly settled in a transport enclosure that was cleaner than any place they had been in years.

The three boys were in poor shape, but they were in good spirits. They now reside in our expansive indoor-outdoor flight enclosure, where over 100 other rescued Egyptian fruit bats make up their new family. They can fly unencumbered, likely for the very first time in their lives. Today, the Missouri Three are doing wonderfully, with endless fresh fruit, juice, toys, and an entire colony of new friends to play with.



Natalie Perez

Louie, after arriving at Bat World Sanctuary.



Anna Wright

There are over 200 organizations accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), all with one goal in mind; to rescue and provide permanent sanctuary to all manner of different species. When we were informed that a fellow GFAS sanctuary needed help in placing five Island flying foxes, we were more than happy to offer them a forever home.

That is how the Florida girls came to Bat World Sanctuary. They are all in their 20's and have always been together. It

The Florida Girls during their trip to Texas.

didn't take long for them to settle in and bond with our long time (and largest) resident, "The Captain", an Indian flying fox. The girls will spend the rest of their lives with us. You can see the flying foxes on our live bat cams, which run 24/7. They can be found at batworld.org/bat-cams or by scanning the QR code below.



The Florida Girls

Island flying foxes



BAT CAMS

Addison McCool

Chatterbox

Evening bat



Addison McCool

After arriving home one evening, homeowners stumbled upon what they first believed to be a large beetle laying inside their screened-in porch. On closer examination - and Chatterbox “yelling” at them with as much attitude as he could muster - they realized that this wasn’t a furry beetle, but a stranded bat in need of help.

While it’s unclear how Chatterbox became trapped in the porch, on his intake exam we found he had suffered a severe injury to one leg. Caregivers quickly administered pain medication, as antibiotics to ward off infection. After the pain medication kicked in, staff cleaned the wound, offering little Chatterbox mealworms in exchange for his patience. Over the next few weeks, he settled in well, learning his routine with caregivers and becoming fast friends with other rescued bats.

His wound was serious and slow to heal, but he always remained in good spirits. During this time he could not properly hang upside down so we placed a soft pouch on the floor inside the clinic enclosure. It soon became his favorite hiding and napping spot.

Unfortunately for Chatterbox, his leg would never be strong enough to release him back to the wild. Although he could fly, he struggled with landing and often fell to the padded floor of our flight enclosure. This would leave him vulnerable to predators in the wild, so Chatterbox will remain with us and receive lifetime care. His leg healed enough that he can comfortably hang upside down, though many mornings caregivers still find him curled up inside his cozy pouch, waiting for breakfast.

Orphaned pups

Eastern red bats



It was the year of the red bats! In 2024, we had dozens of orphaned Eastern red bat pups arrive, all requiring frequent feedings, close monitoring and specialized care. They came from many situations—brought into someone’s home by cats, found in the middle of the street, discovered after a tree had come crashing down. Each one was a unique circumstance, but they all had one thing in common; they had lost their mothers and needed help. Eastern red bats, unlike most bat species in the U.S., roost in trees and have litters of pups as opposed to birthing a single pup. Red bat mothers can have up to 5 babies at one time. With so many pups to care for, it

Never handle bats barehanded! We are trained and vaccinated, so sometimes handle bat pups barehanded for better sensitivity and control.

isn’t uncommon for a pup to be dropped during a storm, or when mom is attacked by bluejays and crows (which is, unfortunately, common). We hand-raise these orphans until they are old enough to be released, which takes 8 to 12 weeks. During this time, they are hand-fed a specialized milk formula every 4 to 6 hours and housed in a toasty-warm incubator.

When they are old enough, they are transitioned to live mealworms. This is also when they begin flapping their wings and attempting to fly. This takes a few weeks to master before they are soon zooming about the flight enclosure and ready for release.



Two of the over 3 dozen Eastern red bat pups that were hand-raised and returned to the wild in 2024.



Big Pimpin
Evening bat

We don't care how they get to us, as long as they get here safely!

Firefighter Colby found this sweet little newborn evening bat in the parking lot of a fire station. He grabbed the first thing available, his eyeglass case, and then transported the tiny baby to us. Colby humorously named this little dude "Big Pimpin'". By

the time summer was over, we rescued and hand-raised dozens of sweet little souls like this one. We fed them round the clock, and once they were old enough, they got the chance to hone their flight skills before we release them back to the wild to eat millions of pesky insects.

Kirk was less than a week old when he came into care, completely bald and wondering where his mother had gone. He was a tiny pup—even smaller than usual, and quite hungry. He ended up grounded and alone in West Texas, and three volunteers collaborated to deliver him safely to our sanctuary. Kirk soon became a stand-out from within the

incubators full of bat pups, always the first to be waiting at the door when it was time to eat, and falling asleep in the hands of his caregivers. While he had a voracious appetite, he remained far smaller than his counterparts. Soon, even younger pups were surpassing him in development, and it became clear that Kirk would always be a bit behind. He eventually learned to eat whole mealworms, albeit slowly, and even flap his wings and attempt flight. He never could quite get the hang of it, with his wings being slightly too small to sustain proper flight. We decided to make Kirk a permanent resident. Nowadays, he happily resides among our colony of other non-releasable bats receiving lifetime care.



Kirk
Evening bat

Tallulah

Mexican free-tail



Addison McCool

Tallulah came into care in late August, after having spent several days flying throughout a historic hotel in downtown Mineral Wells, Texas. She was apparently so enthralled with the grand old building that she spent days soaring through the halls and lobby, both frightening and delighting customers while the hotel staff tried their best to corral her. Finally, Tallulah realized the lack of bugs in the hotel was going to be a problem for her long-term stay, and she landed near the front desk to await rescue. Hotel staff called us, and we sent a volunteer out to give her a ride to the sanctuary.

When she arrived, Tallulah was in good spirits, though hungry and tired from her jaunty adventure. However, on closer examination it was discovered that she was missing two toes. The injury was long healed, and of course we aren't sure how this happened, but she seemed to do well despite this minor disability.

Tallulah remained in care for a few days to ensure she was in good enough shape to fly free. During her stay with us, she developed a fondness for another rescued free-tail named Betty, and they would often cuddle up together in a plush pouch awaiting meals. As luck would have it, Tallulah and Betty were both ready for release at the same time so we were able to send the tiny besties off to freedom together.

Squishy

Mexican free-tail



Addison McCool

Squishy, a juvenile Mexican free-tail bat, found herself in a very dangerous spot after ending up in a trash compactor in Waco, TX. The homeowner spotted the tiny bat sitting on top of the contents in the compactor just before she was about to press the start button. They safely secured Squishy in a box and contacted Bat World MidCities for help.

How she ended up in the compactor is anyone's guess. Free-tail bats are crevice dwellers, which means they find their safety hiding in cracks and crevices. The tighter the crevice, the safer they feel. Had Squishy buried herself into the contents of the compactor in order to feel safe, she would not have stood a chance.

On arrival, Squishy was thin and dehydrated, but thankfully did not sustain any injuries from her almost-fatal ordeal. She received an injection of warmed electrolytes to combat dehydration and a nutritious meal as well as temporary green markings on her ears to indicate to caregivers that she needed to be fed twice-daily.

After a few days of supportive care, Squishy mastered her flight skills and was then released to rejoin her colony. Squishy is now flying free, "compacting" thousands of insects nightly for we mere humans.

Poppy & Paprika

Evening bats



Look at these sweet beauties! Poppy and Paprika are two orphaned evening bats raised by caregivers this past summer. Despite coming from different locations and arriving at different times, these two formed an unbreakable bond during their time together.

After a thunderstorm, Poppy was found alone and cold and was initially thought to be deceased. However, with supportive care she made a remarkable recovery and began to thrive. Paprika had a lucky escape from serious injury during a cat attack and wound up with us thanks to the kind people who found her.

These two grew up fast, learning how to eat whole mealworms and fly, all while side by side. They were always found cuddled together, chattering at one another, and looking forward to their next meal. After successfully demonstrating their flight skills, Poppy and Paprika were released back to the wild together, so they could go out and eat pesky insects to their hearts desire.

As the cost of everything continues to rise, donations for formula, medications, and veterinary care are crucial. Poppy and Paprika's journey would not be possible without the aid of caring donors like you!

pudding was spotted, alone and frightened, clinging onto a fireplace by a homeowner. She apparently wandered into the home by accident, perhaps chasing an insect or seeking shelter from the cold. Once inside, she could not find her way back out.



Pudding was in good shape, but was unable to pass a flight test. We discovered that she had sustained a small wing injury at some point in her life, and it had healed incorrectly, limiting her ability to fly as well as forage for insects. Pudding is now a permanent resident at Bat World Sanctuary, where she will receive life-time care, residing in a miniature cave with others of her same kind.



A severe thunderstorm swept through the North Texas area in June, displacing all sorts of wildlife. Buttons was one such victim. He was found alone as a newborn pup after high winds blew away his family's roost, which happened to be a patio umbrella. The homeowners, who were avid bat fans, scooped up Buttons with a towel and brought him to our sanctuary. Thankfully, Buttons was unharmed and in good condition. His family had been displaced and reuniting was not possible, so we hand-raised Buttons for the next 8 weeks, providing him with a specialized milk formula several times daily

until he was old enough for live mealworms. He did exceptionally well, and quickly learned how to fly. We later released Buttons near the area where he was found where he could rejoin his original colony.



Tonda Bone

Luna is a Mexican free-tail bat that was found inside a warehouse in Abilene, Texas. She likely flew into the building accidentally through an open garage door while trying to catch her dinner. She spent the next day fluttering about, desperately trying to find her way out, but soon exhaustion overtook her and she wound up grounded

on the concrete floor. Maintenance was called and instructed to “dispose” of her, but thankfully the maintenance man followed us on social media and knew exactly who to call. After safely containing Luna, he met up with one of our transporters, who drove Luna to Bat World Sanctuary. We found Luna to be in good health, and she only needed a few days of rest before we were able to release her. In the wild, she will go onto eat crop damaging pests like corn borer moths, saving farmers hundreds of thousands a year in pest control. Thank you, Luna.

This little lady was found on the brink of death, exhausted and critically dehydrated on the floor of a hotel in Mineral Wells, Texas. She was likely trapped inside for days and eventually collapsed after being unable to find her way out. She was completely covered in dust and on the brink of starvation, but had only minor scrapes as injuries. She required multiple rounds of fluid injections before she could open her eyes and start moving again.

Lucky’s condition was poor, but she was determined to survive. She was more than happy to accept the food and care we provided.

Thankfully, she made a full recover and was released back to the wild a few weeks later.



Addison McCool

Spaghetti

Mexican free-tail



Natalie Perez

This little free-tail bat somehow found his way to a local elementary school. He ended up in the cafeteria, where spaghetti was being prepared for lunch. The school called us for help and we rescued him with no issues.

Spaghetti appeared to be in great shape. However, it was too early in the day to release him, so he was driven back to our facility to receive a full check-up to be on the safe side. Our caregivers gave him a green ear to signify his impending release. We released Spaghetti back to the wild later that evening, after dark, to guarantee a release safe from predators. He will go onto feed on crop damaging pests like flying termites, flying ants, mosquitoes, and corn-borer moths.



Protect yourself, protect them!

**Never rescue
a bat
barehanded!**



See page 51, or scan the QR code for help.

Charlie

Evening bat



Addison McCool

Charlie joined us in June and was in extremely rough shape. Accidentally having made his way into someone's home, Charlie was likely trapped for days before the homeowner spotted him. He had somehow made his way into her shower when discovered. After rescuing Charlie, we conducted a thorough check for injuries. Outside of a little water on his head, Charlie was unharmed. A few hours later he looked like a totally different bat. Charlie remained in care for a few weeks, regaining his strength and putting on some much needed weight before being released to fly free.

Charlie remained in care for a few weeks, regaining his strength and putting on some much needed weight before being released to fly free.



Addison McCool



Timmy, a young Mexican free-tail bat, was trapped in a shampoo sink at a barbershop of a local business. He desperately tried to climb the slick walls of the sink, but he couldn't escape. He struggled nonstop until he was exhausted and emaciated. Timmy's

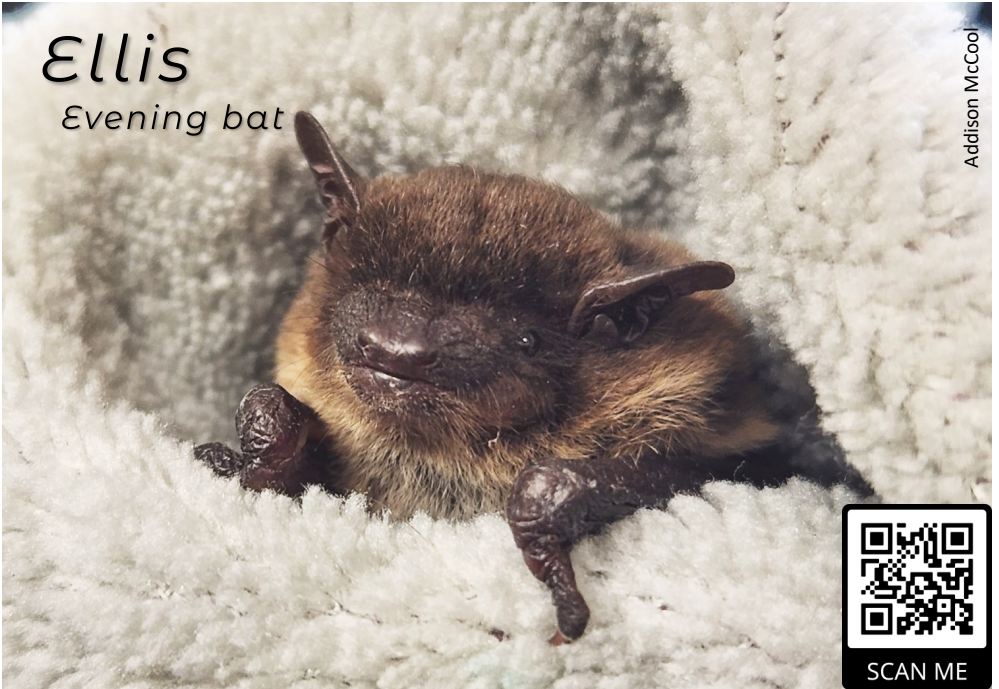
condition was critical. With oxygen, warmth, and antibiotics to prevent pneumonia, we slowly nursed him back to health. Within days, he was showing signs of improvement. His fighting spirit was obvious, and like many of the bats here at the sanctuary, he refused to give up. Once he regained full strength, we released him to reunite with his family in the wild.



Ellis

Evening bat

Addison McCool



The day after a major storm in North Texas, a tiny bat named Ellis was discovered alone and shivering on a homeowner's front porch. Uncertain of what to do, the folks who found him brought him inside, hoping to provide him with the care he desperately needed. However, their efforts were misguided, as they fed him a diet of cow's milk and fruit - foods that insectivorous bat pups cannot digest.

Ellis ended up in life threatening condition. It was clear he needed the expertise of a trained bat rehabilitator. Thankfully, the finders realized they were out of their depth and reached out for help. When Ellis arrived, he was near death due to severe dehydration and malnutrition. Our staff quickly provided emergency triage to save his fragile life. The first few hours were touch and go, with moments where we feared we might lose him. Miraculously, the next morning, Ellis showed signs of improvement. His appetite returned, and he began regaining his strength. Before long, he was able to join the other bat pups in our care, forming fast friendships with his fellow rescued companions.

The video linked above within the QR code captures Ellis a couple of weeks after he arrived, displaying his nearly bald appearance caused by his previous poor nutrition. However, with proper care and attention, Ellis's coat grew back beautifully, and we eventually released him back into the wild where he belonged, and where he could eat as many mosquitoes as he could catch.

If you find a bat or any other wild animal in need, **please do not feed them.** It could be fatal! Instead, contact the nearest wildlife rehabilitator right away to make sure they are given the necessary care they need to survive.

International Rescues

Courage
Savi's pipistrelle

Before



After



Bat World Bulgaria

This is Courage, a young bat that became separated from his mother. He wound up trapped in a homeowner's house after they left their windows open. Although the most common advice people give is to let the bat outside, this would have been a death sentence for this young bat, as he was too young to fly. Little Courage was rescued and taken into care by Bat World Bulgaria, and released once he was old enough to be on his own.

This tiny pup, rescued by Bat World Italy, almost didn't survive. She was found orphaned and alone, and then fed cows milk before being surrendered to rescuers. Bat pups require highly specialized milk formula, and the wrong food can be fatal. Thankfully, carers successfully treated her near-fatal bloat from the wrong diet, transitioned her onto the proper formula, and later released her.



Sandra Bellomo

In this photo, the tiny pup is nursing from a medical tip we use for feeding. It is made of incredibly soft silicone. These tips are used in ophthalmic surgery and are extremely expensive to purchase new (around \$75 each!). Once used in surgery, they must be disposed of, but they can be cleaned and used for other purposes, like feeding baby microbats. Thankfully, these tips are donated to us by eye centers across the U.S. We then provide them free of charge to bat rescuers around the world.

International Rescues

Jules

Long-eared bat

Vera Krushkova



Vera Krushkova

Jules was found trapped by his wing in a garage door mechanism. He was likely stuck for several days, desperately in need of rescue. Thankfully, he was spotted in time to save him and transported to Bat World Bulgaria.

Beautiful Jules is receiving long-term care in order to heal from his injury, but with luck he will one day fly again. Until then, he is in good hands with Bat World Bulgaria, receiving everything he needs to get back to full strength.

One of the best ways to help injured wildlife is via transport. You can help by reaching out to your local wildlife center, or sign up to be a volunteer bat transporter. See page 45 for details!

Beyond the Bats!



Texas Fawn & Friends



Katelyn Campbell

This year, as usual, our staff and volunteers rescued more than just bats! In May, we found an abandoned, dehydrated white-tailed deer fawn, crying for help on Bat World's property. After speaking with a deer rehabilitator, it was determined the fawn was either abandoned or had lost her mother in the days prior. We transported her to Texas Fawn and Friends, a local deer rescue, so she could be hand-raised with other orphaned fawns (photo above).

We also assisted with other injured species this year, including a vulture, 2 hawks, 1 owl (pictured above), 1 hummingbird, 3 lizards, 2 songbirds, 2 possums, and 1 field mouse. All of these animals were transferred to specific wildlife rehabilitators across North Texas, ensuring they had the best possible care. Our property also serves as a safe release site for rehabilitated skunks, raccoons, opossums and foxes.

Domestic animals are also on our rescue list. We found safe placement for 2 goats being sent to auction, and our staff rescued a combined total of 12 dogs and 14 cats. Some of these are adoptions, while others are fosters. One such rescued pup was Arlo (pictured below) who was being hoarded with 57 other dogs, in a dilapidated mobile home. The dogs were in wire crates which were stacked on top of each other, with 2 to 3 dogs per crate. Both the crates and the dogs were covered in urine and feces. The dogs were seized and transferred to a county shelter. We adopted 2 of these dogs. Thankfully, the remainder also found homes. Sadly, Arlo was not adopted and was scheduled to be euthanized so we stepped in and gave him a home as well. Arlo and his friends are bonded and now very happy. They will spend the rest of their lives guarding the sanctuary from delivery drivers and other "grave" threats.



Arlo, at the shelter



Arlo, after res-

Amanda Lollar

Our Learning Center!

In May of this year, we began a very exciting project—one that will be massively beneficial for bats all across the globe! We officially started construction on the Bat World Learning Center, where we will provide public educational programs and rehabilitation training classes. During the summer months (our busiest rescue season), we will also host interns from around the world. In choosing the site, we were careful to avoid areas regularly used by the wildlife on our land, such as deer resting areas and raccoon trails.



We are so excited to have this opportunity to further our bat outreach for school classrooms and to train more bat rescuers across the globe. While the outer shell of the building is completed, we still need funding to complete the inner framework, electrical, insulation, plumbing, etc.

To help us fund this critical project, TWO generous matching grants totaling \$135,000 have been offered to us, which is a massive help to completing the classroom. We would like to extend a special **thank you** to our donors who have helped fund this project thus far!

If you are interested in giving, or seeing our progress on this project and reading testimonials from past interns and workshop attendees, please scan the QR code below.



Education



This year, we hosted 10 different interns from around the world, including Colorado, California, Virginia, Illinois, Texas, Oregon, the United Kingdom, Canada and Mexico. During their stay, interns learned the ins-and-outs of insectivorous bat rehabilitation, including species identification, proper housing, feeding, medical care, and orphaned pup care. They also joined our staff on rescue calls and assisted in our fruit bat enclosure, getting hands on experience with elderly fruit bats and learning proper cleanliness standards for fruit bats in captivity. We are honored to have the opportunity to train more animal care professionals on the proper treatment of bats. You can learn more about our internship program by scanning the QR code above.

Intern Amber Esping feeding a permanent resident.

In 2024, our rescue center, Bat World Midcities, hosted wildlife rehabilitation classes for over 190 students! Classes were both in person and virtual. Students included wildlife rehabilitators, veterinarians, biologists, and conservationists from across the U.S., as well as internationally. Instructed by Kate Rugroden, students learned everything from intake evaluation protocol, enclosure standards, nutrition for both pups and adults, and treatment of illness and injuries. If you are interested in learning more about our classes, please scan the QR code below. International bat rehabilitation classes were also given by Bat World Italy this year. We are so proud of the hard work our rescue centers do in expanding the knowledge it takes to save bats!

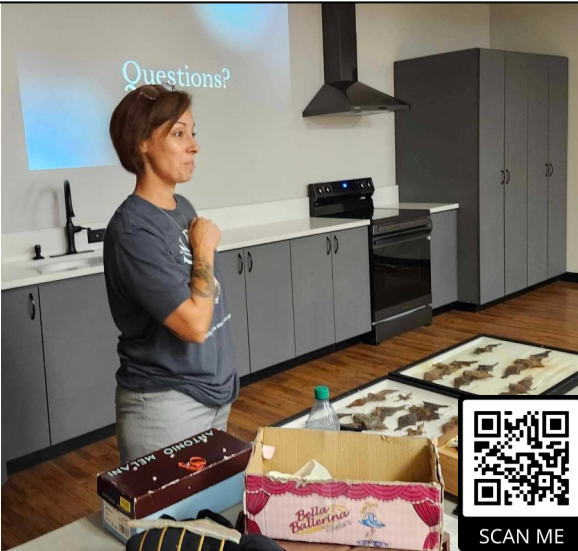


Activism in 2024

For years, Etsy had been one of the largest online platforms that permitted the sale of deceased bats. Overseas, thousands of bats are killed for the purpose of import into the United States, and despite this, they are often labeled as “ethically sourced.” They wind up for sale on sites like Etsy, Amazon, and eBay, and are purchased by unsuspecting members of the public, who believe they are buying an ethical specimen.

We, along with other bat rescuers and conservationists, had been working to stop this practice for years. We are so happy to report that Etsy has BANNED the sale of deceased bat specimens! This was a massive win for bat conservation, and we are thrilled that Etsy has taken this step in protecting a keystone species.

We’d like to extend a big thank you to everyone who made this possible! We still have a long way to go, but bats are safer now that Etsy has taken the lead.



One of our amazing local wildlife rehabilitators and educators is officially part of the Bat World Sanctuary family, as Bat World Cross Timbers! We are so honored to add another facility dedicated to rescue, rehabilitation, and lifetime sanctuary for native bats. Bat World Cross Timbers, led by founder Jessie Woodall, supports our mission to provide the very best care possible for the most misunderstood animals on the planet, and to educate the public about all of the ways that

bats make our world a better place. Since being added as a satellite center, Bat World Cross Timbers has been very busy with their local rescues, teaching educational programs, and other community outreach events in North Texas. If you are interested in supporting or learning more about Bat World Cross Timbers, please scan the included QR code.

Activism in 2024



Working to Protect Texas Bats

Bats play a crucial role in the Texas ecosystem, helping to control pests and providing Texas farmers and ranchers with over 1-billion dollars in pest control annually. Unfortunately, these vital animals are facing an alarming threat. Current Texas law allows people to indiscriminately kill any bat found within, or roosting on, a building occupied by people. This includes lost juvenile bats, mothers and babies, and even entire colonies roosting in a building. As the law does not dictate how bats can legally be killed, known methods of dispatch include being entombed, dying slowly while stuck to glue traps, and suffocating to death from fumigation.

Texas is currently home to 32 of the 47 bat species known to exist in the United States. Natural habitat for bats is being destroyed, and many bats have been killed out of fear and misunderstanding. Bats consume staggering numbers of insects nightly, primarily agricultural pests. The free-tailed bats of Central Texas alone consume close to 250 tons of insects on an average summer night.

Alarmingly, these bats are in severe decline. Researchers documented a population in Eagle Creek Cave that decreased from over 25 million in 1963 to just 30,000 six years later. Human disturbance, especially during maternity season, is the most serious cause of decline. Grossly exaggerated media stories about rabies have also led to the intentional destruction of large colonies. Sadly, Texas, boasting the most farms and ranches in the US, is one of only 7 states that offers no protection for bats during the maternity season. Because of this, people often destroy entire nursery colonies, like the one pictured above, when bats roost in buildings.

Of course, humans should not share their living space with wildlife, but there are humane, safe and effective means to remove bats from buildings that do not involve killing. That is where we need your help. Our proposed draft of a critical new Bill to offer better protection for our Texas bats can be found by scanning the QR code above. Please help us by taking action via our petition, or by lending your Farm or Ranch name in support.

Activism in 2024



USDA Captive Bat Welfare Conference

After the horrendous rescue of over 300 short-tailed fruit bats in April of 2023, we lodged a complaint with the USDA concerning the way those bats were transported. The tiny bats, which measured less than 2 inches long, were placed inside wire cages that were then packed inside wooden crates. The crates were then screwed shut. Over 61 bats lost their lives because of the cruel manner in which they were housed and transported.

Thankfully, our complaint caught the eye of the Director of the Center for Animal Welfare (CAW) at the USDA, who contacted us out of concern. During the meetings that followed, the first ever USDA Captive Bat Welfare Symposium was formed. Bat World Sanctuary's President and Founder, Amanda Lollar, was asked to provide two presentations and serve on two panel discussions.

The virtual symposium lasted two days, with hundreds of animal care professionals from around the world tuning in.

Bats need specialized care as they are flighted and essentially live on the ceiling in captivity. Inexplicably, USDA has bats grouped with marine mammals, as well as goats and other terrestrial species in "subpart F" of their minimum captive standards, giving no consideration for the particular needs of bats.

We were thrilled to have this critical voice for bats and believed that a change for the better for captive bats would follow in the years to come. However, when we inquired on this very subject, USDA informed us they have no intention of upgrading their minimum standards for bats. Essentially, even though this symposium was meant to bring a change for the better for bats in captivity, the cruel confinement of bats will continue because of the lack of concern by the USDA CAW.

Despite this, we will not give up our fight for these magnificent animals. Stay tuned for updates on this critical issue on our Activism page at batworld.org.

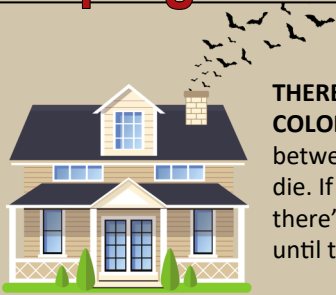
Activism in 2024

- Worked with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to install pup catchers under bridges where hundreds of free-tail bat pups were falling. As well as being mortally injured, some pups were being picked up by the public and taken home. The pup catcher will allow babies who fall to land in a net and then crawl safely back up to their roost.
- Prevented a colony of approximately 50 Mexican free-tailed bats from being exterminated while roosting in the foyer of a Texas school. The school agreed to perform a humane exclusion while also blocking the entryway into the school, allow the students to use a different entryway into the school until all of the bats had exited the building.
- Using our guidelines, bat rescuers in Bolivia began giving workshops in order to introduce their environmental and wildlife authorities on bat rehabilitation. Additionally, our guidelines are being translated on proper handling, transportation, and initial exams for bat rescuers.
- Helped in establishing humane euthanasia guidelines for the California Department of Fish and Game for insectivorous bats by eliminating the use of CO₂, which is proven to be inhumane when used on insectivorous bats.
- Worked with Orkin Pest Control of North Carolina in saving bats that were roosting inside the insulation of a home.
- Worked with a zoologist at Leningrad Zoo Park in Russia to encourage officials to allow the rehabilitation of insectivorous bats.
- Worked with the staff of a nature center in Missouri on a procedure to establish humane protocol for animal control officers who encounter bats. This effort will enable staff to save a larger number of bats who would have been otherwise euthanized by animal control.
- Participated in a research project with West Environment and Statistical Consulting in North Dakota that involved training scent dogs to locate bat roosts.
- Aided wildlife rehabilitation centers and individual rescuers with guidance and supplies in 39 different states and 7 countries. This included mailing free rehabilitation supplies such as bat huts, pouches, medical supplies, live mealworms, and educational literature.
- Assisted the public as well as bat rescuers to give aid to injured and orphaned bats in Brazil, Thailand, Japan, Poland, Austria, China, Sri Lanka, Canada, Croatia, Indonesia, Bolivia, Spain, Mexico, Germany, Costa Rica, Greece, Spain, Italy, Vietnam, Columbia, Russia, Cuba and France.
- Provided guidance and medical management to bat rescuers in Bolivia who were experiencing drastic and horrible wildfires affecting millions of hectares and animals, including bats.

Activism in 2024

- Provided transportation assistance for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife after a bat was accidentally packed in camping gear in California and then driven to Washington State.
- Created a position statement on keeping non-releasable native bats in captivity for state agencies requiring euthanasia of any bat that cannot be released back to the wild.
- We gathered over 100 signatures from bat care institutions in support of the Glue Trap Prohibition Act. We are in hopes that the U.S. will join Scotland, England and Wales in banning these horrendous traps. Glue traps not only trap rodents, but also target birds, toads, and all forms of small wildlife, including bats, to a slow and inhumane death.
- Provided bat huts at cost to animal control officers in Kansas City, and reviewed and endorsed protocol for humane bat handling and quarantine created by the KC Pet Project.
- Prevented large bat maternity colonies from being killed in St. Louis, MO; Beaumont, TX; Atlanta, GA; Nashville, TN; and San Antonio, TX.
- Donated educational material to libraries and schools across the United States.
- Met with bat removal companies to educate about humane exclusion methods, bat behavior, and US native bat species.
- Participated in the very first North Texas "Bat Fest." Staff handed out educational literature, and Assistant Director, Natalie Perez, completed a 45 minute presentation on bats and how we can protect them.
- Assisted members of the public with injured bats after Hurricane Helene, and Hurricane Milton. Along with connecting them with local rescuers, we coordinated transport for bats across Florida, and offered guidance to people who had damaged bat houses.
- Began steps to add a special category for insectivorous bat euthanasia with the AVMA which excludes the use of CO2 on bats due to their high tolerance to the gas. We recently received word that our comments will be reviewed for the next publication on humane euthanasia.
- Worked with the Texas Department of Transportation in efforts to identify habitat for the endangered tri-colored bat in areas of potential new roadways.
- Arranged transport via our volunteer network so injured and orphaned bats could get to rescuers in 43 different states.
- Collaborated with the Israeli Bat Sanctuary to translate our book "The Captive Care and Rehabilitation of Insectivorous Bats" to Hebrew.
- Helped Zoo New England with contraceptive management guidance for their colony of short-tailed fruit bats.
- Created a formal position paper for Bat World Israel to assist them in their battle to remove native fruit bats from zoos and petting zoos.

Keeping Wild Bats Safe



PROTECT NURSERY COLONIES

THERE IS NO HUMANE WAY TO EXCLUDE A BAT COLONY DURING BABY SEASON. If you exclude a bat colony between May and September, baby bats will be left behind to die. If you have an unwanted bat colony in your attic, ensure there's no way they can get into the home's interior, but wait until the end of summer before having the colony excluded.

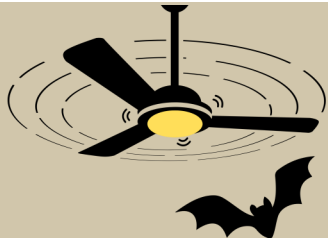
WATCH FOR GROUNDED BATS

Bats roosting in trees are frequently attacked by blue jays and crows, ending up grounded in yards where they are often found by people or pets, or worse, hit by lawn mowers. Please check your yard for downed bats before mowing. If you find a bat in need please visit batworld.org to find a rescuer in your area.



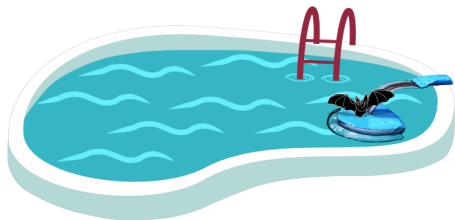
TURN OUTDOOR FANS OFF AT NIGHT

Please give bats a break by NOT giving them a break! Ceiling fans can break tiny arm bones. Please turn any outdoor ceiling fans OFF at night to avoid tragic accidents. You'll save a little on your electric bill while also saving little lives.



USE ESCAPE RAMPS IN POOLS

If you have an outdoor pool please add an escape ramp and a critter skimmer. Both of these items can save countless lives every summer. Ramps are small, compact and hang from the pool edge, allowing bats and other small animals to escape drowning.



PROTECT NATIVE HABITAT

At least 12 of our 47 US bat species use dried palm frond "skirts" as natural roosts. To protect baby bats and birds, don't trim dried fronds in spring or summer. Try to leave some dried fronds year round so bats have a safe place to raise their pups in summer, or to hibernate in winter.



Keeping Wild Bats Safe



AVOID GLUE TRAPS

Glue traps are horrendous objects of cruelty—they oftentimes catch other small animals such as birds, small reptiles and bats. Most of these trapped animals suffer for days and do not survive the stress, starvation and dehydration that occurs from being stuck on these traps. If you must use fly strips or glue traps for insects, please cover them with chicken wire or another type of mesh that allows insects in while keeping small, innocent animals out of harms way.

A special thank you to Happy Valley Bats for commissioning this important work by graphic artist Joan Chen.

PROVIDE ROOSTING SITES

Mounting a bat house on your property is the perfect way to help bats who are in need of a safe place to live while protecting your yard from pesky night-flying insects. Bat houses come in many designs, but some are better than others. Always make sure your bat house is BCI certified, and ensure you follow proper mounting instructions. If you are lucky enough to end up with a nursery colony in your bat house then mounting a pup catcher is critical. A pup catcher will prevent bat pups from falling to the ground, which frequently happens during summer months when bat houses become overcrowded or overheated. A pup catcher is very simple to create and will save lives. Scan the QR code for more info.



BECOME A VOLUNTEER TRANSPORTER

Want to help us save lives by being a transport volunteer? By signing up you are simply giving us, or your local bat rescuer, permission to contact you if we have a bat in need in your area. Being a transport volunteer is simple! All we ask is that you pick up a contained animal in need, and deliver it to a predetermined wildlife rehabilitator. Please note, transporters are not permitted to handle or care for wildlife.

Letters

Sharing a few of the messages we received in 2024. Receiving notes like these means more to us than we can fully express! We hope you enjoy reading them. as well.

I wanted to write a letter to express how grateful I am for the opportunity to intern at Bat World Sanctuary this year! I learned so much, and gained a newfound love of these little guys. Your team really made my internship even better. I felt so welcomed and I just loved all the knowledge. I hope that in my future career as a vet, I can work again with Bat World. We need more bat vets! G.M.

"Your work is amazing! Thank you for all you do for these special creatures! It is my pleasure to support your organization!"

"A friend linked me to your website and FB page and I have followed faithfully ever since. I admire you and all that you do to help the loveliest animal on the planet live, feel safe and comfortable! As far as I'm concerned, Bat World Sanctuary is the coolest place in the world. Thank you so much for making each and every one of my days better through your actions, uploads and above all, bat cams!"

Brian

They call back and handle everything with the most kind and caring way. Trained staff that know how to handle these sweet babies. I love bats, and I'm proud to be a part of one baby rescued by bat world sanctuary! Bubs is going to thrive and live a happy healthy flighty life because of you all. Trusted since I was 8 years old and visited on a field trip. Amanda Lollar is incredible.

Thank you so much for your work saving these precious creatures and educating people about why they are so important!! One day everyone will appreciate how wonderful bats are and they don't deserve to be hated.

I wanted to thank you for maintaining your webcam. You are one of very few people who do keep the cam going. I want to thank you so much. I enjoy watching the bats and I fear the webcams will be taken down as a channel because people do not maintain their camcorders so thank you so much!!!!!! I appreciate your efforts. I am bedridden and love live cams.

Last summer I saved 46 baby bats and it was only because of your guide. This is the first time it happened with success in Denmark!

Dear Bat World, You are the main reason our bats in Australia are getting more help and love than ever before, that alone is priceless. You've always put the bats above everything else, like it should be, Thank you for always being there for the bats.

Bats are my favorite animals. What you do helps the world one life at a time.

You are the frontier scientists in bat rehabilitation. Thank you, and my greatest respect.

Batty Crossword

Use your big batty brain to complete this crossword!

ACROSS

1. What bats use to fly
3. Bats are classified as this type of animal
5. How bats primarily travel
7. These are the only mammals capable of true flight
9. The order in which bats belong to
13. A term used for small species of bats
14. During the winter, some bats enter this state of deep sleep to conserve energy
16. The method bats use to navigate through the dark
17. Bats that help with seed dispersal
18. People think bat wings are this texture, when in reality they are soft and silky

DOWN

2. A term for bat droppings
4. A term sometimes used for larger species of bats
6. A term used to describe bats that primarily eat insects
8. Some species of bats feed on this sweet food
10. A resting place for bats
11. Animals (including bats) that are most active at night are
12. Many species of bats live in these dark, damp places
15. Large groups of bats often roost together in these communities



Loving Tributes

In Loving Memory of Denise Tomlinson McGuire ~ Brad and Debby Bradshaw

In Loving Memory of Kaitland Sneed ~ Great Aunt Alice Schmidt and family and Jeremy Smith, Kelly Englert, Justin Los, Grace Gannon

In Loving Memory of Two of my bat rehab mentors, Pat Barbosa and Laura Flandreau. ~ Deb Welter

For Kait Short! Thank you for the live feeds that gave her joy during an awful time! ~ Cassandra Curtis

This small donation is in Memory of a friend of mine who recently passed away. Hopefully her Memory can live on in the care and love for bats around the world. ~ Caleb Hilston

In Memory of Kaitland. I love you so much ~ Samantha L

In Memory of Ruth L. ~ Scarlet

Dedicated to Late Bob Buecher ~ Debbie Buecher

In Memory of Paul Taylor, Husband ~ Linda Hannigan

In Memory of Bijou, Brownie and Mr. Pez ~ Anonymous

In Memory of Barnabas ~ Anonymous

In Memory of Buzz and Ariel ~ Anon

In Memory of Watson and Sherlock ~ Larry Abston

In Memory of Peekaboo ~ Kimberly Cornett

In Honor of Sunshine, B.B. and Fu...AND to Bibi Welles for sharing Amanda's wonderfully eye opening, educational and enchanting story of Sunshine and B.B. This has forever opened my heart to the world of Bats ~ Anonymous

In Honor of Sarah Taylor ~ Karin Taylor

In Honor of Aubrey Mathews ~ Mark Williams

In Honor of: Lourdes and all the amazing humans (and bats) at Bat World. ~ Light and Love from Laura

In Honor of Rishi ~ Lisa Butler

In Honor of Lil Wayne the Silver-haired Bat ~ Rita Dixon

In Honor of Brownie the Big Brown Bat ~ Jennifer Logue

In Honor of Mocha, a faithful dog ~ Mari Madailin Scott Douglas

In Memory of my Gyttta who came to visit me in my old apartment and stayed with me for a day and a half before she decided to fly away. ~ Judy Bernstein

In Loving Memory of Denise Tomlinson

Denise was an avid bat rehabilitator and biologist. She bravely battled a brain tumor for the last three years.

Denise came to Bat World Sanctuary in 1998 to volunteer for a week. She and our founder, Amanda Lollar, became immediate friends, and that friendship lasted over two decades. After volunteering, Denise and Amanda created Bat World Bootcamp, a week-long workshop on the rehabilitation of insectivorous bats. Denise had excellent organizational skills. Thanks to her, the workshop was a tremendous success and soon attracted wildlife care professionals from around the world. Denise lived in Florida, and every summer she would drive over 20 hours to Texas to stay at Bat World to help instruct. She loved red bats most of all - her nickname for them was "The Beautifuls".



Denise had a magical connection with red bats. Even the most severe cases that were not expected to live would thrive in her care. Denise actively contributed to the AZA husbandry guidelines and was the former co-chair of the Florida Bat Working Group. She presented at professional and scientific symposiums and instructed workshops, including multiple intensive week-long workshops relative to

the rehabilitation, husbandry, and captive care of insectivorous bats and frugivorous bats. She also authored various articles and chapters relative to bat husbandry and captive care. In 2003, Denise appeared on the David Letterman show with Bat World Sanctuary. You can see her at 6:40 in the video, via the QR code on the left.



George, one of Denise's rescued bats, retired at Bat World Sanctuary.

*Rest in Peace, beautiful Denise.
May you fly on the wings of the
bats that you loved so very much.*



Visit the Bat World Store!



Help support the bats by shopping at batworldstore.org!

MAIN MENU

- Store Home
- View all products
- Visit batworld.org

DONATIONS

- Make a donation
- Sponsor a Bat in Need
- Sponsor a Bat Virtually

SHOP BY TYPE

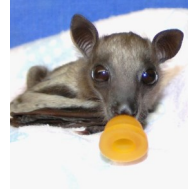
- Books
- Clearance
- Clothing
- Educational Materials
- Home Decor
- Jewelry
- Rescue Supplies
- Toys



Sponsor Sully
\$35.00



Sponsor Bengel
\$35.00



Sponsor Bootsanna
\$35.00



Layered Copper
Night Sky Necklace
\$36.95



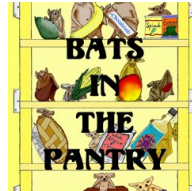
Plush Mildred
\$15.95



Organic Tote Bag
\$23.00



Lil Drac Hoodie
\$34.95



Bats in the Pantry
Cookbook
\$18.95



Dangly Bitty Bat
Earrings
\$8.95



All proceeds go towards buying food, medication, and enrichment for the rescued bats of Bat World Sanctuary, and orders are fulfilled on site by staff and volunteers. Each order comes with a copy of our annual report magazine, full of stories and photos of rescued bats that your purchase helps support.

What to do if you find a bat

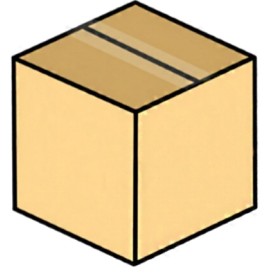


NO BARE HANDS!

Please remember- never handle bats bare handed. Once the bat is not moving, quietly approach the bat, and wearing thick gloves or using a thick towel, gather the bat up securely but not tightly. You may also use a piece of cardboard to gently scoop up the bat.

PLACE THE BAT INTO A BOX

Line a box with an old t-shirt so the bat has something to hang upside-down on. Make sure the box is secured with no gaps (some bats can squeeze through cracks as small as 1/4"!). Secure the box with a lid.



BRING THE BOX INDOORS

Keep the box in a room where the bat won't get too hot or too cold and make sure the room is closed off from children and pets. Put some water in a shallow dish (such as a jar lid) in the box. Please do not provide any food.

CALL A RESCUER

Contact a bat rehabilitator in your area. A worldwide list of bat rescuers is located at batworld.org. If you are unable to access that list, please call Bat World Sanctuary at 940-325-3404 for help in locating a bat rescue center near you.



WHY SAVE BATS?



BAT WORLD
— SANCTUARY —

Roughly one of every four mammals on earth is a bat. Consider this: if your day includes soap, toothpaste, cosmetics, coffee, margarine, chewing gum, candles, paper, ink, wood, fuel, rope, twine, rubber, spices, vegetables, fruits, chocolate, margaritas, air fresheners or even life-saving medicines, you are not only involved with bats, you are likely dependent upon bats. Bats are among the most beautiful and beneficial animals on earth. They are clean, gentle and intelligent. Bats

are vital for healthy ecosystems and enhance our lives in many ways. Fruit and nectar bats bring us approximately 450 commercial products and 80 different medicines through seed dispersal and pollination. Up to 98% of all rainforest re-growth comes from seeds that have been spread by fruit bats. Insect-eating bats are literal vacuum cleaners of the night skies, eating millions upon millions of harmful bugs. They protect us by eating insects that destroy crops as well as insects that cause human disease.

Yet for all they do, bats are continually killed due to myths, superstition, and fear. The life expectancy of a single bat may exceed 20 years, but slow birth rates limit their population growth. When just 5 bats are needlessly killed, a potential 100 years of animal life is destroyed. Worldwide, almost 60% of bats are either endangered or official candidates for listing, and they desperately need your help.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

In a world where so many look away, Bat World Sanctuary is on the front line to end the abuse and destruction of bats. We have been recognized as the world leader in bat rehabilitation for over two decades. Each year we rescue thousands of bats that might otherwise die. Lifetime sanctuary is given to non-releasable bats, including those that are orphaned, injured, confiscated from the illegal pet trade and retired from zoos and research facilities. You can help us save bats by educating others about their plight and by donating to Bat World Sanctuary.

Bat World Sanctuary was founded in 1994 and is a 501(c)3 non-profit, accredited organization. Donations allow us to continue our rescue efforts for bats.

Bats are now in their 11th hour. We can save them, but we cannot do it without your help. Bat World Sanctuary is not state or federally funded; our funds come from caring people like you. Please join us in our efforts to save bats by making a donation and becoming a member of Bat World today.

BATWORLD.ORG offers free educational materials, videos, kid's games and rescue information. You can even sponsor a bat in need through our Adopt-a-Bat program. Sponsors receive educational materials and *BAT WORLD*, our conservation magazine that includes beautiful photos of rescued bats. You can also receive an online membership to *Night Flight News*, our e-newsletter, by simply making a donation of any size through batworld.org.

