



Bat Boxes: FAQ

Like a nest box for birds, bat boxes provide safe places for bats to roost and raise young.

Why should I get one?

Bats will thank you for providing valuable habitat by eating their weight in insects every night—including pesky mosquitos!

Where should I hang my bat box?

The ideal location would be a 10 ft. post in the middle of a field. A south/southeast facing wall or tall fence is also good—bats like the sun's warmth. Be sure to leave enough clearance below for swooping flight in & out!

When will I see occupancy?

Bats may watch your box for a season or more before taking up residence in early spring. Watch for activity at dusk or guano (bat poop!) for signs of occupancy.



We speak fluent bat!

Ready to begin your bat box adventure? Our knowledgeable staff are always ready to help!

Raven Tree is proud to carry a range of bat boxes approved by the Organization for Bat Conservation. We can help you choose the right size from our local and USA-made selection, or build your own from one of our pre-cut kits. We even have mounting hardware!

Sign up for our e-newsletter to be the first to know about upcoming bat talks and workshops.



**Raven Tree
Wild Bird & Nature Shop**

138 Morgan Way
Mt. Shasta, CA 96067

www.raventreeshop.com



WILD BIRD & NATURE SHOP



Bats 101



Get to know these
amazing mammals and
why they matter!



Little Brown Bat, credit: USFWS/Ann Froschauer

Our Friend the Bat

As creatures of the night, these nocturnal mammals are mysterious and sometimes misunderstood by humans. We're here to assure you that bats are nothing to be feared – in fact, they are valuable members of our local ecosystem.

Bats are social and seasonal creatures. Most bats in temperate climates hibernate in large colonies within caves and mines during winter, after fall mating season. Mother bats usually birth just one pup each spring, but gather in summer maternity roosts that can number in the millions. Male bats are more likely to roost together in bat boxes, dead/dying trees, peeling bark, and cavities.

Bats are the only mammals that truly fly. Though sometimes maligned as “flying rodents,” bats are more closely related to primates and lemurs than mice and rats. They are in their own scientific order *Chiroptera*, meaning, “hand-wing.”

Bats are not dangerous to human health. Contrary to popular myth, bats are the least likely of mammals to transmit rabies to humans. Fewer than half a percent of bats contract the disease, and it is rarely spread within colonies. Dogs and raccoons are more dangerous than bats in this regard!

Bats are great pest control. Bats have excellent hearing in order to hunt and catch prey in total darkness using echolocation. A single bat can eat up to 1,200 mosquito-sized insects every hour—that's 6,000 to 8,000 insects a night!

Some bat species are endangered or threatened. The leading cause of decline among bat populations is loss of habitat. You can help by leaving known roost sites, such as caves and tree hollows, undisturbed, as well as creating new habitat by posting bat boxes on your land.

Local Species

Have you gone from bat-phobic to bat-curious? Though identifying bat species can be challenging, it helps to know who you can expect to see here in Northern California and Southern Oregon.

Species you may encounter include:

- Pallid Bat
- Big Brown Bat
- Little Brown Bat
- Hoary Bat
- California Bat
- Yuma Bat
- Townsend's Big-Eared Bat*
**a Species of Special Concern in California*

Not all of these species will roost in boxes, but one that will is the Little Brown Bat (pictured left). One of the most abundant bat species in North America, they have a wide habitat range and are not too picky about roost sites. Little Brown Bats emerge at dusk to feed on gnats, mosquitos, beetles, moths, and flies. Quite long-lived, Little Brown Bats can reach the age of 30 years or more, though 10 is the average lifespan in the wild.