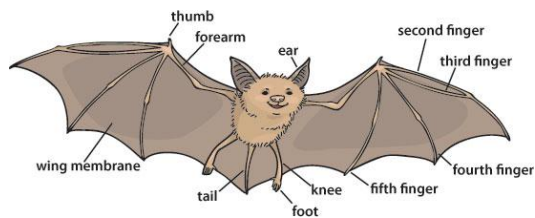


BAT HOUSES



Bats play a highly important role in our ecosystem. They can also play a wonderful part in minimizing the population of biting insects around our homes—keeping away mosquitoes and black flies without the use of harmful pesticides.

A single bat can eat one thousand mosquitoes in an hour. Putting up a bat house is a great way to keep bats around your home.

LOCATION OF BAT HOME

Bats often choose to raise their young within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of water. They also like plants. Having a large birdbath and a garden will help to attract bats to your bat house. **The Higher from the Ground the Bat Home, the Better** Bats like to roost at least ten feet from the ground and even higher if possible.

DON'T PUT THE BAT HOUSE IN A TREE

Tree branches provide a roost for their natural predators (owls, hawks and even blue jays). Mount your bat house on the side of a building or high off the ground on sturdy poles.

AN EASTERN EXPOSURE FOR THE BAT HOUSE IS BEST IN OUR AREA

Bats like the interior of the house to be warm—between 80 and 100 degrees. In our hot part of the country, it's best to paint your bat house a light color.

SIZE OF BAT HOME and TIME to INSTALL

The bat home should be at least 2 feet tall and 14 inches wide. If you are hoping to have your bat house used within the first year, it's best to install it in the spring before bats return from their winter hibernation.

SO, WHERE DO BATS GO IN THE WINTER?

They hibernate in caves and abandoned mineshafts where water is handy and the temperature is a steady at a cool steady temperature of about 60 degrees F. The Earth without our 1,300 species of bats would be a very different and much poorer place. Bats around the world are playing ecological roles that are vital to the health of natural ecosystems and human economies. Bats consume vast amounts of insects, including some of the most damaging agricultural pests. Others pollinate many valuable plants, ensuring the production of fruits that support local economies, as well as diverse animal populations. Fruit-eating bats in the tropics disperse seeds that are critical to restoring cleared or damaged rainforests. Even bat droppings (called guano) are valuable as a rich natural fertilizer. Guano is a major natural resource worldwide, and, when mined responsibly with bats in mind, it can provide significant economic benefits for landowners and local communities.

Visit **Bat Conservation International** for lots of information about bats. <http://www.batcon.org/>



www.lovinggarlandgreen.org We are dedicated to growing a local plant-based economy.