



The Pollinators of the Night: Why Bats Matter & How To Support Them

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THE FUTURE NEEDS ALL OF US



www.batcon.org

Join the cause to end bat extinctions worldwide.



Bat 101



- **The only flying mammal**
- **On all continents except Antarctica**
- **1,500 species!**

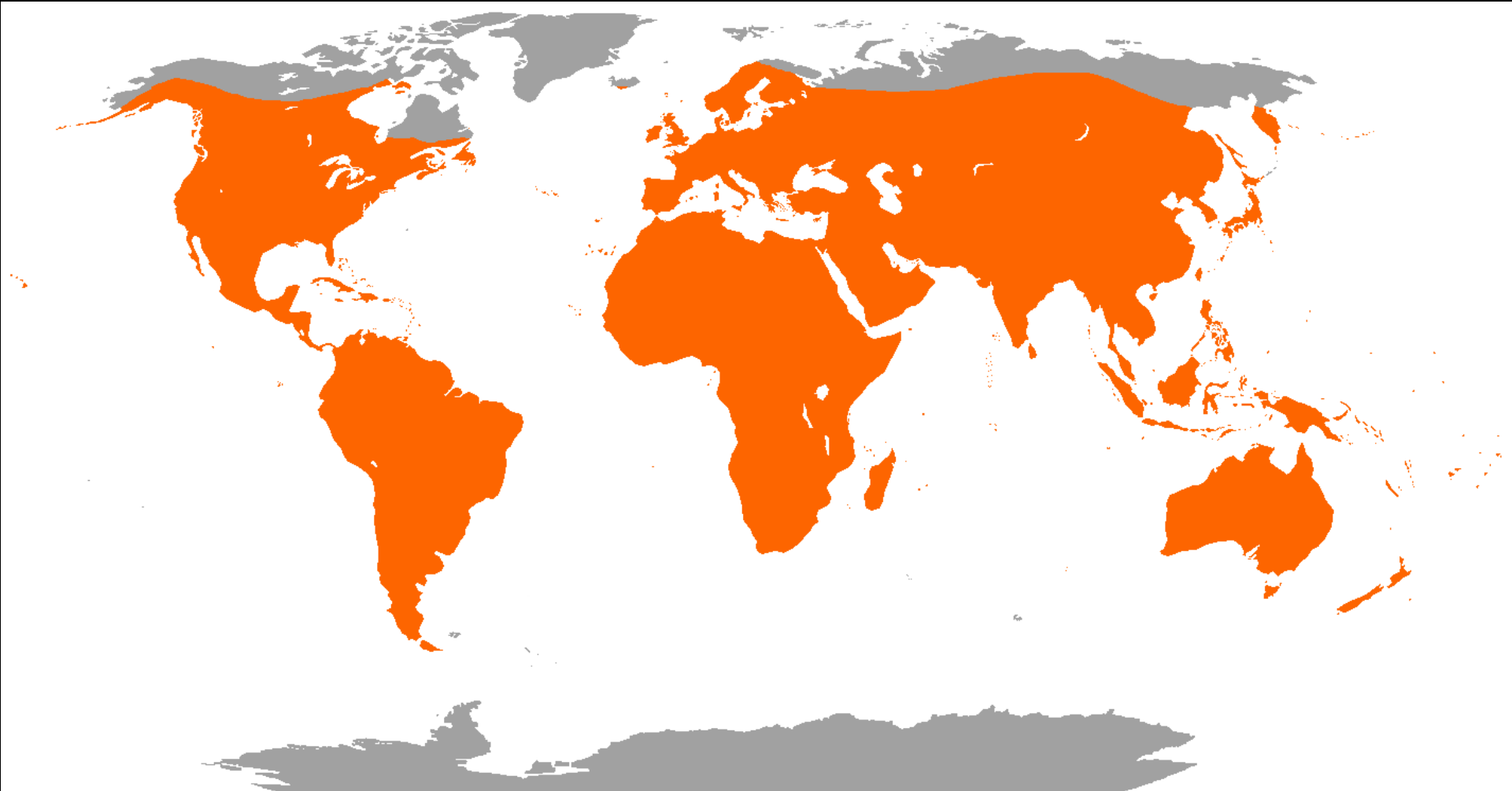
1,500 species



20% of all mammal species



All continents except Antarctica





Pollinating Bats



Pollinating Bats

Over 100 bat species
eat **nectar** (~7%)



© Yushi & Keiko Osawa

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Pollinating Bats

**300+ plants are
pollinated by bats**





Pollinating Bats



Bats vs Hummingbirds: Who is the better pollinator?



Hummingbird



Bat

Bats vs Hummingbirds: Who is the better pollinator?



Hummingbird



Bat

- Spread more pollen
- Bats often carry pollen farther than other animals





Bat Conservation International's Agave Restoration Initiative

3 nectar-feeding species in the Southwest US and northern Mexico

Endangered



Mexican long-nosed bat
(*Leptonycteris nivalis*)

Recently Delisted



Lesser long-nosed bat
(*Leptonycteris yerbabuena*)

Near-
Threatened



Mexican long-tongued bat
(*Choeronycteris mexicana*)



Lesser long-nosed bat
(*Leptonycteris yerbabuena*)

Mexican long-nosed bat
(*Leptonycteris nivalis*)





• Tucson

• El Paso

• Hermosillo

• Monterrey

• Mexico City

• Oaxaca



Agaves provide
energy-rich nectar



The bats **pollinate**
the agaves



Agaves are critical for pregnant and lactating females, particularly in northern Mexico and the U.S.

Agaves provide cultural and economic resources







The Conservation Challenge

Increasing habitat and land degradation





The Conservation Challenge

Mexican long-nosed bat
(*Leptonycteris nivalis*)



Population has
declined by
50%







A young agave plant with several large, pointed, serrated leaves is growing out of sandy soil. The background is blurred, showing a person wearing blue jeans and a red and white striped shirt. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Agave Restoration Initiative

**Restore healthy landscapes and
agaves near roosts and
migratory corridors for both
bats and people**

**9 U.S. and
Mexican states**





Our Diverse Partners

- 100+ bi-national partners including ejidos and private landowners, Tribes, NGOs, native plant nurseries, state and federal agencies, universities, and industry





Achievements to Date



Collect native agave seeds to create regional supply chains for restoration

Photo: Kristen Lear, Bat Conservation International

Photo: Bill Hatcher



**1 million+ agave
seeds collected
from 8 states**



Achievements to Date



Grow native agaves
with local partner
nurseries and
communities



**26 greenhouses built
or supported**



Achievements to Date



Plant agaves in critical bat areas



185,000+ agaves planted

Achievements to Date



Photo: Especies, Sociedad y Hábitat, A.C.

Protect agave habitat and
restore degraded lands
(soil and water restoration; regenerative
agriculture and ranching)



Photo: Sofia Navarrete Zur, Bat Conservation International



**5,800 hectares
protected or
restored
(14,300 acres)**



Achievements to Date

Educational workshops & teacher trainings to foster “environmental champions”



Photo: Kristen Lear, Bat Conservation International

Photo: Especies, Sociedad y Hábitat, A.C.



**26,000 kids & adults
locally;
1.5 million+ people
worldwide**

Photo: Kristen Lear, Bat Conservation International



Achievements to Date

Community science networks for bat and agave monitoring



Photo: Will Sardinsky, Bat Conservation International

Photo: Emma Gomez Ruiz



Achievements to Date

- Collect environmental DNA (eDNA) of nectarivorous bats from blooming agaves & hummingbird feeders



Photo: Bat Conservation International, Horizonline Pictures



Photo: Tom Vezo, Minden Pictures, Bat Conservation International



Photo: Kenneth Bosma



**1,000+ samples collected
2022-2025 in Arizona, New
Mexico, Texas, and Sonora**

U.S. NEWS

Arizona has added an endangered bat to the list of night-flying creatures that frequent the state



1,000+ samples collected
2022-2025 in Arizona, New
Mexico, Texas, and Sonora

Mexican long-nosed bat
discovered in Arizona!



U.S. NEWS

Agave or bust! Mexican long-nosed bats head farther north in search of sweet nectar



1,000+ samples collected 2022-2025 in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Sonora

Mexican long-nosed bat discovered in Arizona!

100-mile range expansion in New Mexico!



How YOU can help bats!



Gardening for Bats

Gardening for Bats



Gardening for Bats





Gardening for Bats





Gardening for Bats

<https://www.batcon.org/about-bats/bat-gardens/>

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Bat Conservation International website. The address bar shows the URL <https://www.batcon.org/about-bats/bat-gardens-houses/>. The page features a large, high-quality photograph of a brown bat perched on a green leaf. Overlaid on the top left of the image is the text "GUIDE TO GARDENING FOR BATS" in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. In the top right corner of the page, there is a red button with a white heart icon and the word "DONATE" in white capital letters. Below the main image, the text "How to attract bats to your backyard" is displayed in a dark blue font. This is followed by a paragraph of text explaining the importance of bats and how to attract them. Below this, there is another paragraph and a link to a guide and regional plant lists. At the bottom, there is a bulleted list of regional plant links.

How to attract bats to your backyard

Bats are an important part of a functioning ecosystem, and with natural habitats in decline they need our help now more than ever. You can welcome bats in your very own backyard by providing food, water, and shelter – creating bat habitat in even the smallest of spaces. In return, insectivorous bats will eat many of your unwanted yard and garden pests.

Plus, their nightly displays of aerial acrobatics are fascinating to observe.

Check out our [Guide to Gardening for Bats](#) and [lists of regional native plants](#):

- [Central Texas plants](#)
- [Coastal Texas plants](#)
- [Kentucky plants](#)
- [San Diego, CA plants](#)
- [Southwest Colorado plants](#)
- [Portland, OR plants](#)



Gardening for Bats

- Plant night-blooming, native flowers
- Herbs and aromatic flowers
- Fruit trees
- Insect host plants (tree and shrubs)
- Don't use pesticides



Other Backyard Bat Habitat

- Provide water (ponds, large natural pools, etc.) (~10 feet long or more)



Other Backyard Bat Habitat

- Provide roosting sites for bats: leave dead trees and snags when possible



Other Backyard Bat Habitat

- Install a bat house if natural roost sites are being removed

<https://www.batcon.org/about-bats/bat-house-guidelines/>



Adopt A Bat!

- “Adopt a Bat” from a bat organization!

<https://www.batcon.org/join-us/adopt-a-bat/>



Follow us to learn more!

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www.batcon.org/agaverestoration

 batcon.org

