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BCI Organizes for Expanded Capability

Extraordinary growth of interest in bats and BCI over the past year has nearly inundated our small staff and office resources. We now handle thousands of information and assistance requests monthly.

By spring, it became apparent that a major change in the organizational capability of BCI needed to take place. After careful consideration, the BCI Board decided to increase the staff size and office space to accommodate present and future growth.

Dr. Merlin Tuttle's new title, Founder and Science Director, clearly reflects his history and priorities for BCI, and accommodates his desire to focus more directly on his areas of expertise in conservation and science. Business and management responsibilities increasingly were limiting his time for conservation and research work.

One of the chief aims of the new organizational plan was to assign business management of BCI to an individual with an extensive background in managing non-profit organizations. On May 19th, the BCI Board unanimously approved George B. Perry as Executive Director of BCI. A graduate of the University of Texas in Behavioral Sciences, Mr. Perry comes to BCI with over 10 years of management experience, including Director of the Austin Nature Center and most recently as Manager of City Museums for Austin. Mr. Perry also has a broad background in educational programming and curriculum development.

Dr. Paul B. Robertson has been hired as Associate Science Director to work with Dr. Tuttle in responding to requests for technical assistance and to coordinate research and conservation projects. Dr. Robertson has been an Associate Professor of Biology and Program Director for Environmental Studies at Trinity University, San Antonio. A doctoral graduate in evolutionary ecology at the University of Kansas, his research emphasis has been in mammalian ecology (including work with Dr. Tuttle on endangered Gray Bats) in the U.S., Mexico, and Costa Rica.

Other staff changes and additions have been made to increase the overall effectiveness of the organization. Carol Smith Adams has been added, on a part-time basis, as Development Coordinator. Ms. Adams, an honors graduate in English from the University of Texas, brings with her over 12 years experience in non-profit development. BCI will rely on her expertise in grantwriting and membership services. Since moving into larger offices in May, BCI also has added staff to assist in rapidly growing clerical and sales responsibilities.

All articles in this issue:

- ▶ [BCI Organizes for Expanded Capability](#)
- ▶ [Board Elects Officers](#)
- ▶ [REVIEW](#)
- ▶ [Fruit Bats: Prime Movers of Tropical Seeds](#)
- ▶ [India's Samanar Hill Caves Saved](#)
- ▶ [Prime Minister of India Enjoys Bat Exhibit](#)
- ▶ [Australia's Flying Foxes Still Need Help](#)
- ▶ [Medal Awarded to BCI Member](#)

- ▶ [Community Bat Awareness Seminars](#)
- ▶ [On the Cover](#)