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On the Cover

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Unlike most bats, Red bats (*Lasiurus borealis*) often give birth to twins and sometimes quadruplets. This mother enfolds her twin young in her wings as they nurse. They will be weaned by their fifth or sixth week and begin flying even earlier at three to four weeks old. During the day, each pup holds on to the mother with one foot and on to her perch with the other. When she goes out to feed in the evening, they will be left behind. Red bats are tree dwellers, easily camouflaged in the foliage where they sometimes curl up in their tail membrane, looking more like a dead leaf than a bat. They are found throughout most of the U.S. as far north as southern Canada and south into Mexico. In the fall they will migrate south for the winter. In the summertime they are among the earliest evening fliers and often can be seen around street lamps where they hunt moths, among many other insects. This photo is featured in BCI's newest audiovisual program, "Bats of America" (see story on page 10). Photo by Merlin D. Tuttle

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