

## **VOLUME 10, NO. 1 Spring 1992**

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### **THE FIRST TEN YEARS**

#### **Milestones**

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### **Milestones**

#### **1982**

- ☐ BCI founded in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on March 12, 1982
- ☐ Game warden hired to protect bats of Khao Chong Pran Cave in Thailand
- ☐ Government ban on quarrying saves Rakang Cave in Thailand
- ☐ "Bats and Public Health" distributed to all state health departments in the United States

#### **1983**

- ☐ Judges Cave, Florida's largest maternity roost for endangered gray bats, protected
- ☐ BCI gains support for Thai student's endangered bumblebee bat study in Thailand
- ☐ BCI's first audiovisual program, "Saving America's Bats," and 100,000 brochures funded by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- ☐ 200 "Saving America's Bats" distributed by USFWS to government agencies nationwide

#### **1984**

- ☐ Wisconsin legislates ban on use of pesticides against bats
- ☐ BCI study in East Africa demonstrates claims of fruit bat damage to crops are badly exaggerated
- ☐ 1 million copies of Bacardi Imports' booklet, "The Most Famous Bat in the World," published, setting the record straight about bats

#### **1985**

- ☐ Cooperative effort protects Hubbards Cave, Tennessee, one of North America's three most important bat hibernation sites, with gate
- ☐ Flying foxes added to protected list in New South Wales, Australia
- ☐ BCI research project funded to investigate bat values in Old World tropical ecosystems
- ☐ IUCN places bumblebee bat on 12 most endangered list as result of 1983 study
- ☐ BCI initiates discussions with Governor A.P. Lutali in American Samoa to protect flying foxes from commercial hunting and to set aside lands for a national park to further safeguard their survival
- ☐ Second BCI audiovisual program, "Bats: Myth & Reality," produced

#### **1986**

- ☐ BCI moves headquarters from Milwaukee Public Museum to University of Texas at Austin
- ☐ American Samoa passes legislation protecting flying foxes from commercial hunting, and establishes game laws
- ☐ Major educational campaign in Israel halts poisoning of bat caves with BCI assistance
- ☐ BCI initiates efforts in Texas to protect Bracken Cave, world's largest bat colony, and to

save Congress Avenue Bridge bat colony, largest urban colony, from destruction

### 1987

- With assistance from BCI, young member succeeds in obtaining a legislative ban against the pesticide, Rozol, being used against bats in North Dakota
- BCI testifies at congressional hearings to establish national park in American Samoa
- BCI assists in successful efforts to add nine species of flying foxes to CITES Appendix II, regulating international trade
- Samanar Hill bat caves saved from quarrying activity in India
- Study to investigate bat values in Old World tropics completed, revealing over 300 plant species that rely on bats, with 450 commercial products derived from bat-dependent plants
- New York Botanical Garden sponsors joint field study with BCI in French Guiana

### 1988

- BCI works with National Speleological Society to prepare and assure passage of National Cave Resources Protection Act in the United States
- Samoan National Park bill signed by President Reagan, creating first tropical rain forest national park, and protecting flying foxes
- BCI and World Wildlife Fund initiate comprehensive education campaign in Costa Rica, resulting in production of educational materials for distribution throughout Latin America
- *America's Neighborhood Bats* published by University of Texas Press

### 1989

- National Geographic Society funds Sonoran Desert Bat-Cactus Project, two-year field research begins
- BCI takes part in CITES conference in Lausanne, Switzerland; flying foxes added to Appendix I of the CITES treaty, making international trade illegal
- BCI Chairman Verne Read receives 1989 Chevron Conservation Award for his efforts on behalf of Pacific island flying foxes
- Survival Anglia and BCI begin filming documentary, "The Secret World of Bats," for CBS television
- First 10-day bat ecology field workshop offered to train wildlife biologists and others in techniques for the study of bats
- "Bats of America" audiovisual program and poster produced

### 1990

- BCI acquires two-thirds ownership in Bracken Cave, world's largest known maternity colony of bats, in central Texas
- BCI and Texas Nature Conservancy begin joint management and protection of Eckert James River Bat Cave in central Texas
- Austin, Texas dedicates BCI educational exhibit at Congress Avenue Bridge bat colony and declares itself America's bat capital
- BCI hosts 14 island nations and countries at landmark Pacific Island Flying Fox Conference in Honolulu, resulting in new cooperation and understanding for conservation of flying foxes
- USFWS places first wildlife officer on Guam to enforce CITES treaty
- Survey for flying foxes conducted on five Pacific islands
- Sonoran Desert Bat-Cactus Project concludes field studies, revealing importance of endangered long-nosed bats to three species of giant cacti
- BCI assists conservation group in American Samoa with intensive educational campaign after hurricane devastates flying fox habitat
- BCI co-sponsors major traveling educational exhibit in Israel

- First series of one-day bat study workshops held, focusing on teaching participants how to develop interpretive programs and solve community problems with bats
- Austin, Texas schools initiate B.A.T. (Bat Awareness Team) Clubs with assistance from BCI

## 1991

- Society for Conservation Biology selects BCI for 1991 Distinguished Achievement Award
- "The Secret World of Bats" airs in Europe and Australia and is named Best Science Documentary of the Year in 8th French Television Festival for Science and Documentary Films
- *America's Neighborhood Bats* receives The Wildlife Society's 1991 Conservation Education Award
- BCI hosts 21st Annual Meeting of the North American Symposium on Bat Research
- Pilot study conducted in central Texas to determine bat use of bridges and to design roost sites into bridges
- Began campaign to alert mining and conservation officials of impact of proposed changes to General Mining Law on bats
- Cooperative efforts to form conservation plan for U.S. migratory bat species begun with Mexican biologists; survey of bat cave populations conducted in Mexico
- BCI helps support study on cultural significance of fruit bats in Guam, which will assist with future educational efforts
- BCI participates in major cooperative survey of flying foxes in Palau
- Pilot study conducted to help important Guatemalan bat cave
- BCI supports study of coastal Peru's unique and threatened bat fauna
- *Educator's Activity Book About Bats* published by BCI for elementary educators
- Permanent educational exhibit erected at Eckert James River Bat Cave
- First bat natural history tour to Costa Rica organized for members

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