

## VOLUME 10, NO. 3 Fall 1992

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### Educational Materials Produced for Latin America

There is probably no greater need for educational materials about bats than in Latin America where fears of vampire bats lead to the annual destruction of millions of beneficial bats [*BATS*, Spring 1991]. To help raise awareness about the approximately 250 species of bats in Latin America, BCI recently produced its first Spanish-language audiovisual program, "*Los Murciélagos de América Latina*" (The Bats of Latin America).

Available in both slide/tape and video formats, the program covers bat diversity, diets and lifestyles, vampire bat identification and control, and information on the importance of bats to local economies and diverse ecosystems. Two hundred copies are being donated to appropriate groups and institutions throughout Latin America. Funded by the World Wildlife Fund, the Janelia Foundation, the W. Alton Jones Foundation, and the Chicago Area Rainforest Action Group, the program is expected to introduce many thousands of Latin Americans to bats each year.

BCI is also helping to solve problems with vampire bats through another educational piece. With a grant from Avinet, Inc., a major U.S. distributor for the mist nets used to capture bats, BCI produced a comprehensive Spanish-language brochure on the identification and control of vampires. The brochure will be distributed by Avinet to all purchasers of bat nets in Latin America as well as through BCI's long list of contacts. Both the audiovisual program and brochure will lay the groundwork for future BCI projects in Latin America.

All articles in this issue:

- ▶ [ON THE COVER](#)
- ▶ [Bracken Cave: A Priceless Resource](#)
- ▶ [Adventures in Photographing Bats](#)
- ▶ [In Progress: A New Book About Bats](#)
- ▶ [Venezuela's Bats: A CASE FOR CONSERVATION](#)
- ▶ [Bats in Magic, Potions, and Medicinal Preparations](#)
- ▶ [THE PAUL WINTER CONSORT](#)
- ▶ [WANTED □ PROFESSIONAL VIDEO PHOTOGRAPHER](#)
- ▶ [BCI Co-sponsors International Symposium on Desert Succulents](#)
- ▶ [Protection for Critical Bat Caves in New Mexico](#)
- ▶ [Educational Materials Produced for Latin America](#)
- ▶ [BCI's Second Bat Tour to Costa Rica a Success](#)
- ▶ [NPCA Promotes Bat Conservation](#)
- ▶ ["The Secret World of Bats" Airs](#)
- ▶ [New BCI Board Members](#)
- ▶ [Heading south for the winter](#)