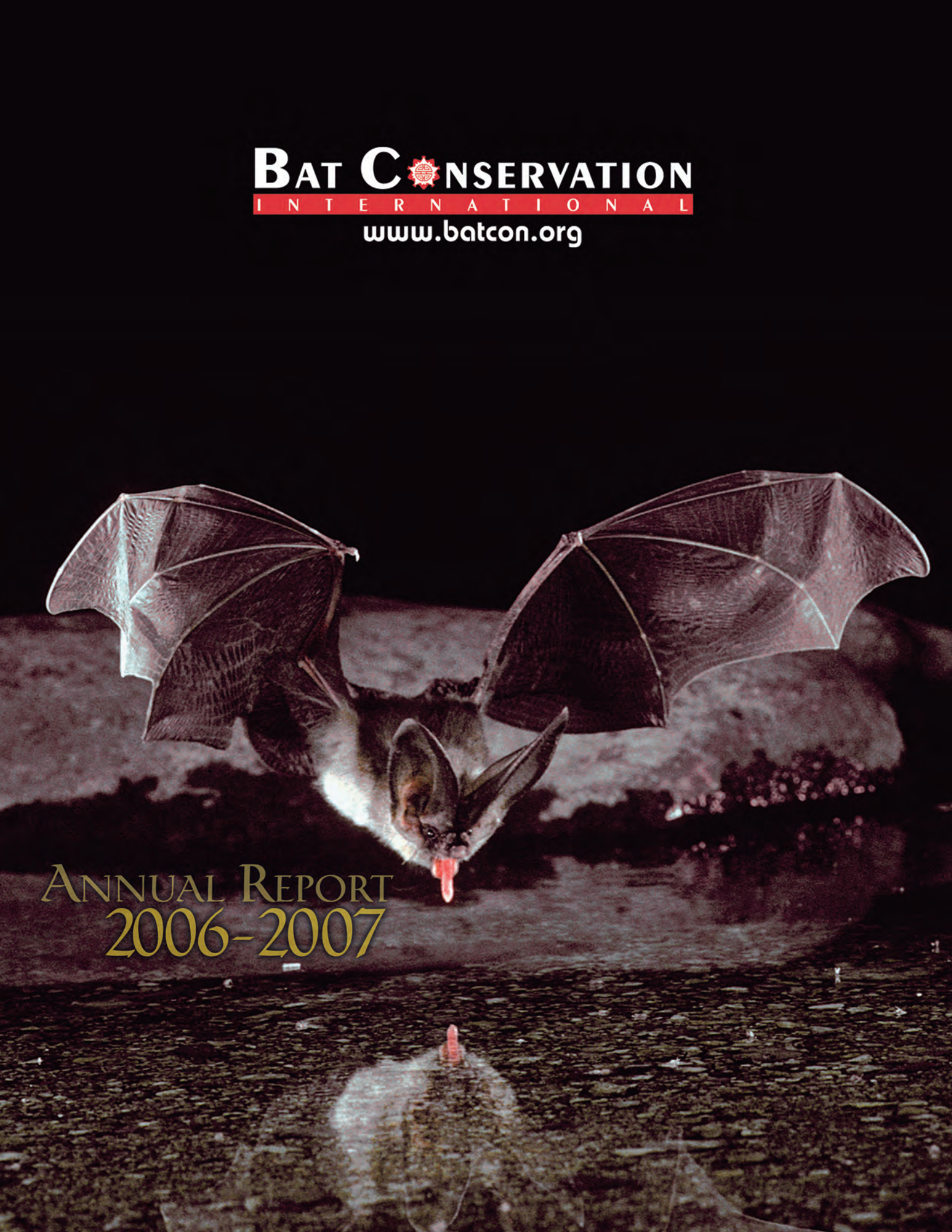
Bat Conservation International

www.batcon.org



Annual Report 2006-2007

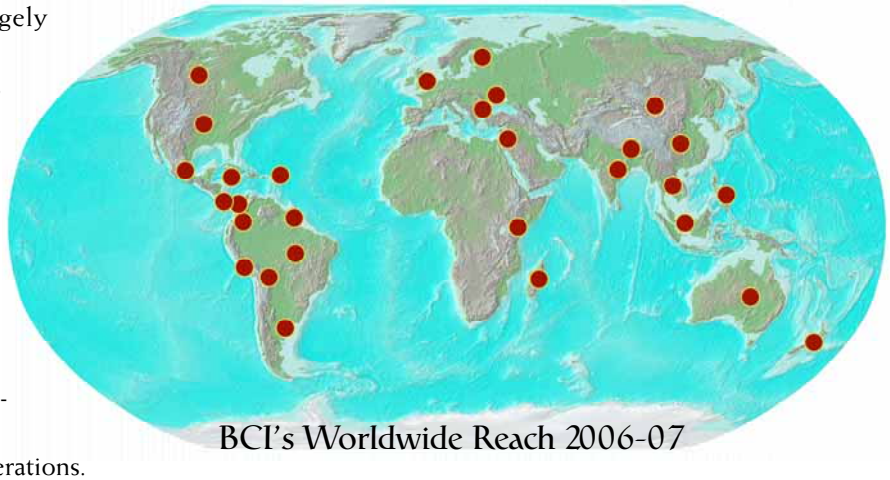
Dear BCI members and friends,

Bat Conservation International, buoyed by the generosity of its members and allies, made impressive progress on many fronts this past year: recovery efforts for endangered gray and Indiana myotis, research and education on wind energy's threat to bats, enhanced water resources for wildlife, new successes with alternative roosts and much more. And, in a continuing achievement with immeasurable long-term impact on bat conservation, BCI is strengthening its global reach as never before.

The map below shows 29 countries in which we had a direct impact during the past 12 months alone, and lasting effects from previous efforts would dramatically increase that number. BCI has pursued conservation of bats and bat habitats around the world since its beginnings 25 years ago. Increasingly, our international emphasis has shifted to empowering local conservationists and scientists, sowing seeds from which permanent commitments to bat conservation can grow, often for the first time.

BCI Student Research Scholarships have supported conservation-related research projects around the world since 1990, and a new partnership with the U.S. Forest Service International Programs added 10 new scholarships a year specifically for students working in developing countries. Many of these young scientists will be key players in conservation and research fields one day. The Global Grassroots Conservation Fund, established seven years ago, provides small grants, plus advice and materials, to individuals and groups for homegrown conservation projects in countries from Bangladesh and Bulgaria to Uganda and Ukraine.

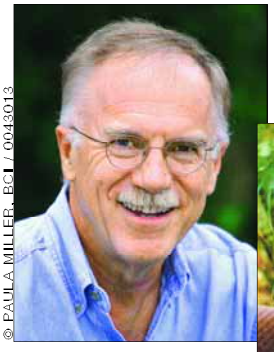
Our Borderlands Program, codirected and largely staffed by local biologists and cavers, works throughout northern Mexico to protect colonies and roosts of migratory bats that cross the international border. In India, BCI established a formal relationship with longtime bat-conservation champion Sally Walker, who is now our BCI South Asia Liaison. And in the Philippines, our assistance and encouragement to the indomitable Norma Monfort is ensuring protection of a critical bat colony, while laying groundwork for what is becoming a national bat-conservation movement.



BCI's Worldwide Reach 2006-07

These are achievements that will last for generations.

Merlin D. Tuttle
Founder and
Executive Director



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Bat Conservation International

Cover photo: Natural water supplies available to bats are increasingly rare in western North America. BCI's Water for Wildlife Program is combining research and education to improve wildlife access and safety at artificial water resources installed for livestock.

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Caves

Key progress for endangered species

(*Left*) A BCI team examines a winter hibernation area in Indiana's Wyandotte Cave, one of the two most important Indiana myotis hibernation caves ever discovered and a primary concern of BCI for more than a decade.

(*Below*) Thanks largely to BCI's efforts, gray myotis like these are making an amazing comeback and may soon be ready for graduation from the Endangered Species List.

Years of intensive BCI research achievements, conservation efforts and coalition building are paying huge dividends for two endangered bat species.

Permanent protection of a vital Tennessee cave used by hibernating gray myotis (*Myotis grisescens*) may be the final piece of the puzzle that will allow this important bat to graduate off the Endangered Species List. This is an especially vulnerable species because more than 90 percent of its known population hibernates in just nine caves. The loss of even one of these caves can have serious impact. Top biologists predicted the gray myotis' extinction in 1969; it was listed as endangered seven years later.

The gray myotis' recovery is an integral part of BCI's history. It began in 1959, when Founder Merlin Tuttle, then a high school student, decided to study a cave colony near his Tennessee home. He eventually banded more than 40,000 gray myotis, demonstrated for the first time that the species was migratory and continued the research to earn his Ph.D.

The gray myotis has been a major focus of BCI since its founding in 1982. Education and protection began to slow the species' dramatic decline by reducing intentional killing and unintentional disturbances. BCI, working with numerous partners, especially the American Cave Conservation Association, The Nature Conservancy of Tennessee and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, achieved long-term protection for dozens of critical caves. A massive, bat-friendly gate was built in 1985 at Hubbards Cave in Tennessee, where a once-great population of gray myotis had dwindled to 88,000. By 2006, that number had grown to an estimated 520,000.

A signal achievement this past year will permanently protect Pearson Cave in eastern Tennessee, where Tuttle discovered an important gray myotis roost in 1959. With BCI's help, the cave was gated in 1989, and the now-undisturbed population has tripled to more than 300,000. The Nature Conservancy of Tennessee, a key partner in the gray myotis effort for many years, recently joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Defense in a BCI-assisted acquisition of the cave.

The endangered Indiana myotis (*Myotis sodalis*) has much farther to go before its survival is assured, but BCI's Caves Program is moving forward on many fronts.

The Fish and Wildlife Service's draft Indiana Myotis Recovery Plan incorporates research by BCI and its partners that clearly shows these bats require a narrow range of mid-winter temperatures for hibernation sites. But many caves that once held great populations of hibernating Indiana myotis were altered over the decades or centuries for mining or tourism. Adding or blocking entrances or passageways, for

example, can change airflow and temperatures to the point that the bats abandon long-used caves.

The key to the Indiana myotis' recovery clearly lies with identifying historically important hibernation caves and restoring the conditions at priority sites that once allowed Indiana myotis to thrive. The Caves Program is already on the job.

BCI's Dave Waldien and Caves Program Coordinator Jim Kennedy, working with federal, state and local partners, conducted Indiana myotis surveys at five eastern Kentucky caves. BCI hired and trained a field crew to screen 25 high-potential caves in West Virginia for evidence of past use by the species. At least one cave likely sheltered tens of thousands of bats but is now largely unoccupied.

BCI scientists have been collecting microclimate data inside key hibernation caves for nine years to assess the potential for restoring previous conditions and track progress of restoration efforts.

Kentucky's Saltpetre Cave is the poster child for this BCI initiative. Intense study and gradual restoration began in 1998, and a work plan was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for additional protection (including gating unprotected entrances) and restoration in coming months. Indiana myotis numbers have grown from dozens to more than 8,000.

We are building new partnerships and broad alliances to continue the recovery of these bats.

The Caves Program also worked to survey and protect sites used by Rafinesque's big-eared bats (*Corynorhinus rafinesquii*), Mexican free-tailed bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) and other species around the world.

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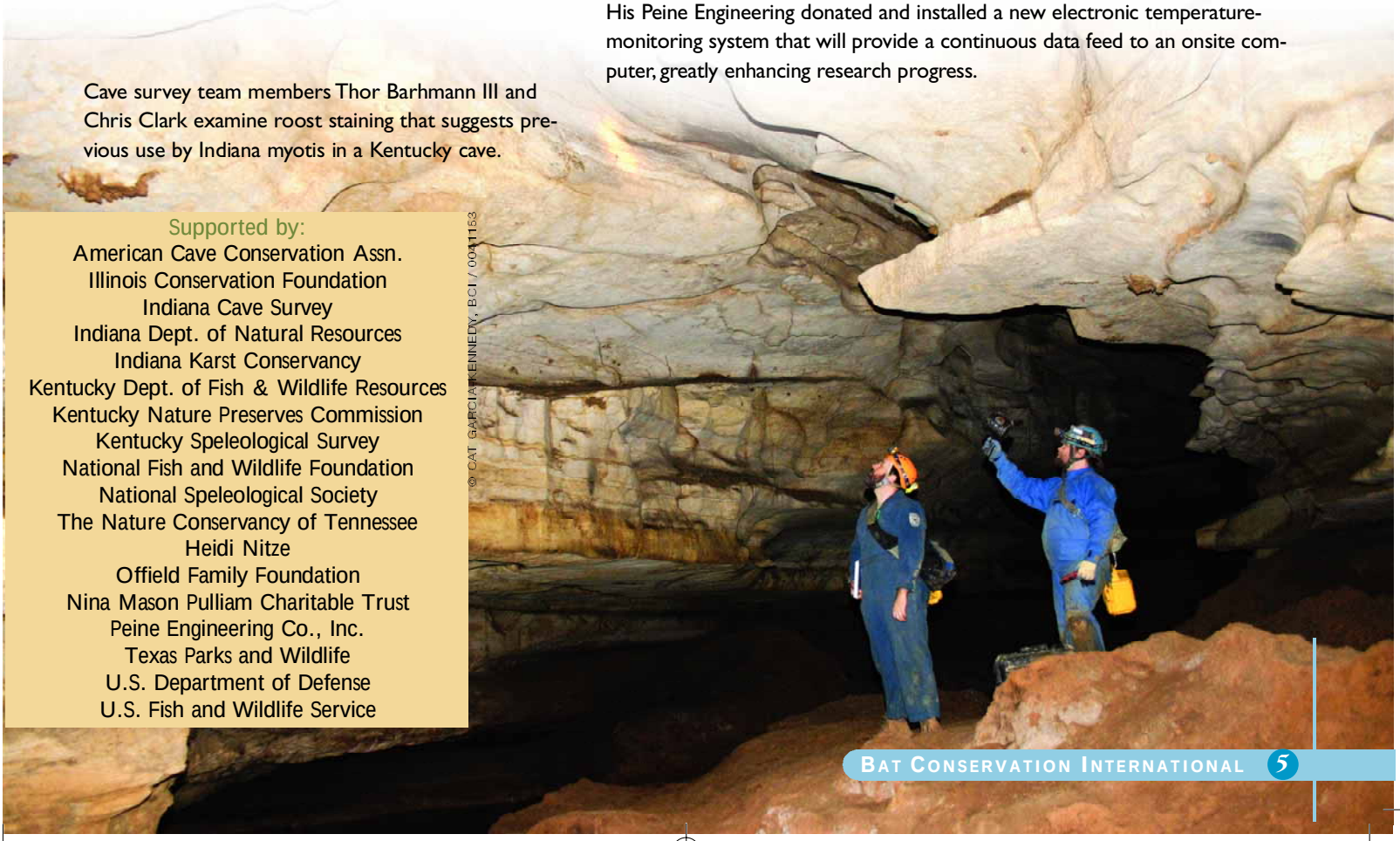
Rich Peine checks airflow through a passage at Wyandotte Cave in Indiana. His Peine Engineering donated and installed a new electronic temperature-monitoring system that will provide a continuous data feed to an onsite computer, greatly enhancing research progress.



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Cave survey team members Thor Barhmann III and Chris Clark examine roost staining that suggests previous use by Indiana myotis in a Kentucky cave.

Supported by:
American Cave Conservation Assn.
Illinois Conservation Foundation
Indiana Cave Survey
Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources
Indiana Karst Conservancy
Kentucky Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Resources
Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission
Kentucky Speleological Survey
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Speleological Society
The Nature Conservancy of Tennessee
Heidi Nitze
Offield Family Foundation
Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust
Peine Engineering Co., Inc.
Texas Parks and Wildlife
U.S. Department of Defense
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Borderlands

Protecting international bats

Arnulfo Moreno uses BCI's Spanish-language *Cave Bats of Northern Mexico* book to explain bats' economic importance to the leader of a community that controls land with several bat caves.

Borderlands Program field crews have identified northern Mexico caves that, together, may once have sheltered tens of millions of bats. Among them is Cueva del Porvenir, probably one of the world's largest bat roosts of the past. In most cases, only scattered remnants of these huge colonies survive. Human disturbance, improper guano mining and misguided efforts to control vampire bats have taken a terrible toll.

While surveying continues to identify key past and present roost sites, Borderlands is also intensifying efforts to build alliances to protect these critical caves and to educate communities about the immense value of the bats in their areas.

Linking bat roosts to the direct economic benefits of ecotourism can work wonders. Mayor Roberto Tijerina of Candela signed a formal agreement with BCI to jointly manage the nearby Cueva del Consuelo, home to about 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) now, and probably several times that number in the past.

The cave is alongside a developed recreation area, where camping, swimming and picnicking facilities are designed to draw tourists. Working with Spa Ojo Caliente, the town is building a viewing area where visitors can watch the bats' impressive evening emergences and it is planning to promote the bats as a tourist attraction. The project is a model that will demonstrate to other communities the value of protecting their bat roosts.

(*From left*) BCI Founder Merlin Tuttle, Candela Mayor Roberto Tijerina, Coahuila official Nazdry Briones Escobedo and Arnulfo Moreno sign an agreement to jointly manage Cueva del Consuelo.

BCI scientists worked with Don Virgilio Garza, owner of the Bioparque Estrella outside Monterrey on a new cave-like exhibit that features nectar-eating bats flying and feeding in a realistic setting. Educational displays dispel myths and describe the diversity and importance of bats. The exhibit, visited by more than 100,000 people during its first four months, will be an invaluable educational tool for many years.

Borderlands Co-coordinators Arnulfo Moreno and Cat Garcia-Kennedy have identified five key bat caves for special conservation assistance. Conservation and management plans are being developed, and implementation could begin at some caves during the coming year.

Protecting even a few of these important bat caves would contribute greatly to the repopulation and long-term conservation of the bats of northern Mexico.

Supported by:
Eugenio Clariond Reyes
Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund
Fondo Mexicano Para la Conservación de la Naturaleza
Virgilio Garza
Instituto Tecnologico de Cd. Victoria
Offield Family Foundation
Pronatura Noreste

Water for Wildlife

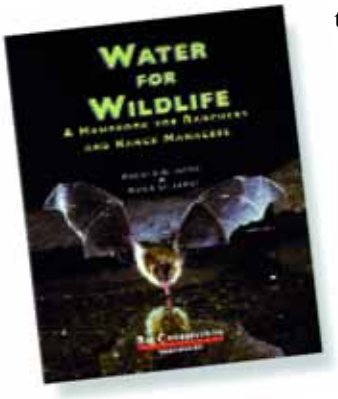
A safe place to drink

Supported by:
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Offield Family Foundation
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Well-designed escape structures keep bats like this cave myotis from drowning in watering tanks.

Bats, birds and other wild animals are beginning to find more – and safer – sources of water in the American West, thanks to BCI's Water for Wildlife Project and its publication of a popular new handbook that distills more than two years of research on water issues. But the problem remains acute throughout much of the region where countless natural water supplies have disappeared.

Water for Wildlife, through its handbook and workshops, teaches ranchers and range managers how to ensure that watering sources installed for livestock are also safe and accessible for bats and other wildlife that often need them for survival. The publication documents the need for wildlife-accessible water supplies. And it details relatively simple and inexpensive methods to ensure that bats and birds can get to the water without the risk of being trapped and drowned.



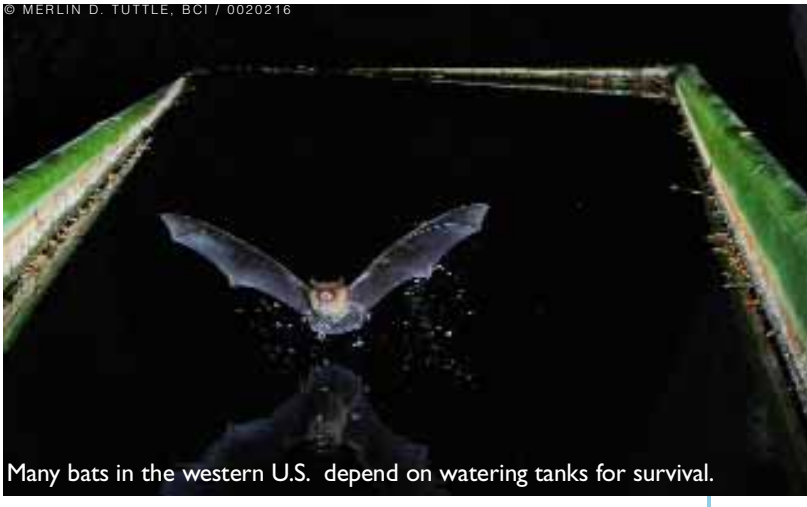
About 15,000 copies of *Water for Wildlife* are being distributed to land managers by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (a key partner in its development), the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, cattlemen's associations, agricultural extension offices and others. The publication is also available for download at BCI's website.

Program Coordinator Dan Taylor organized a symposium on wildlife-water problems and solutions at the Society for Range Management's national conference. More than 300 range managers and livestock operators from the United States and Canada attended.

Six workshops, organized with many partners, are scheduled this coming year in Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico to provide hands-on training in enhancing bats' access and in building wildlife escape structures in existing water tanks.

A new Adopt-an-Allotment project brings together civic groups, ranchers and government range managers in joint efforts to improve wildlife water supplies on especially important grazing allotments. The first effort begins this year with a workshop in Flagstaff, Arizona, to build escape structures throughout the 400,000-acre Babbitt Ranch. Partners include the Grand Canyon Trust, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Arizona's Game & Fish Department.

Water for Wildlife is also working with partners to plan demonstration projects in New Mexico, Nevada and Arizona to confirm the impact of improving existing water facilities. Water sources with wildlife-access problems will be monitored for current bat use, then altered to become near-ideal drinking sites for bats. The remodeled sites will then be monitored again, which should dramatically demonstrate the value of such modifications.



Many bats in the western U.S. depend on watering tanks for survival.

Supported by:
American Wind Energy Association
Jeff & Helen Acopian
Bass Foundation
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The Hulebak-Rodricks Foundation
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National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Renewable Energy Laboratory
PPM Energy
Dr. Carolyn Rizza
Adele M. Thomas Charitable Foundation
TRF Sustainable Development Fund
Wiancko Charitable Foundation
and numerous private donations to BCI

Bats & Wind Energy

Seeking solutions for 'green' energy

Wind-energy turbines are spreading across North American at a remarkable pace – and bats by the thousands are being killed by the spinning blades. But scientists of the BCI-led Bats and Wind Energy Cooperative (BWEC) are reporting steady progress in the difficult search for solutions.

Initial tests of potential bat deterrents, pre- and post-construction monitoring to identify risks, increasing cooperation from other conservation groups and the solid collaboration of some wind-power firms, especially PPM Energy, are hopeful signs. But much work remains.

BCI, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the American Wind Energy Association, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory created the cooperative in December 2003. The alliance of state and federal agencies, private industry, universities and non-governmental organizations supports and coordinates research to minimize wind energy's threat to bats.

A possible ultrasonic deterrent device – a shroud of high-frequency sound (beyond human hearing) that "jams" bats' echolocation calls – repelled bats in lab tests. Designed by Joe Szewczak of Humboldt State University in California and Mark Jensen of Binary Acoustic Technology, the device was avoided by captive bats in a flight chamber. The bats, which easily snagged suspended mealworms when the device was turned off, were unable to get them when the sound was blaring. The potential deterrent also reduced bat activity by about half when used near an open pond. This year's crucial field tests will mount much more powerful prototype deterrents on working wind turbines and monitor (with thermal-imaging cameras) how the bats respond over time.

BWEC Coordinator Ed Arnett of BCI and colleagues, meanwhile, conducted extensive surveys of bat activity at three sites proposed for PPM Energy wind plants. The data are being analyzed to correlate activity with weather and other variables. Surveys of activity and fatalities are also planned after wind turbines are built and operating at the sites to determine whether pre-construction monitoring can be used – ideally during the site-selection process – to assess the future risk of bat kills.

At meetings of federal and state officials, scientific groups and conservationists around the country, Arnett has described BWEC research results that clearly document the wind-energy threat to bats. He also detailed the issue in testimony to a subcommittee of the U.S. Congress. A BCI-developed position statement urging "green energy" investors to favor companies that cooperate in assessing threats and seeking solutions now has 10 cosponsoring organizations, including the National Audubon Society, the Humane Society of the U.S., Defenders of Wildlife and the Wildlife Society.

(*Top*) Ed Arnett (*blackshirt*) met with representatives of Texas conservation groups to develop much-needed guidelines for wind-energy facilities in the state, which has the nation's largest installed capacity and many more facilities planned. (*Above*) Wind turbines at Foote Creek Rim in Wyoming.

Supported by:
Bexar Grotto
The Brown Foundation, Inc.
SeaWorld and Busch Gardens Conservation Fund
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
and Bat Conservation of Wisconsin, John Drake, Marilyn Litt, Linette Mansberger, Janice A. & James E. Roberts, Jan Schroeder, Dana Shamir, Harry Stephens, Patricia Steves, Anita Tate

Bracken Bat Cave & Nature Reserve

Nurturing a natural treasure

When the first settlers moved into the Texas Hill Country a century and a half ago, they found oak-studded savannas where the grass grew knee-high to a man on horseback. Wildflowers splashed springtime colors and wildlife was plentiful and varied. The great bat colony was also there, emerging each summer night to feast on tons of insects.

As farms, ranches, towns and finally cities grew, the country changed. Cattle ate the grass and natural brush fires that had helped keep the plants in balance were suppressed. The grasslands shrank, and thirsty Ashe junipers (known locally as "cedars") invaded from their traditional redoubts along ravines and hillsides, creating impenetrable thickets and transforming flora and fauna.

Crews monitor the carefully planned and controlled burn at Bracken Bat Cave & Nature Reserve, part of a plan to restore native vegetation to the Hill Country property.

Bat Conservation International plans a world-class education center built around the cave and its 20 million Mexican free-tailed bats. As part of that, we are working to restore the 697-acre Bracken Bat Cave Nature Reserve as nearly as possibly to that earlier time. The project emphasizes a 343-acre core area south and southeast of the cave, where wildlife-habitat potential is greatest and where most young bats learn to fly.

Controlled burns, delayed two years because of weather, were carried out on about 100 acres under contract with The Nature Conservancy of Texas. The meticulously controlled fires helped restore native vegetation without damaging fire-resistant species such as oaks.

Dense stands of cedar have been cleared, mechanically and by hand, from 220 acres. This remains a major effort under our Habitat Restoration Plan, supervised by Bracken Coordinator Fran Hutchins. As acreage is cleared, reseeding becomes a priority. More than 75 acres were sown during the past year with a seed mix of 26 native grasses and other savanna plants.

SWCA Environmental Conservation is working under contract to conduct bird surveys on the Nature Reserve. SWCA teams identified 45 bird species, including six breeding pairs of endangered golden-cheeked warblers. It is hoped that restoration of additional grasslands will also encourage endangered black-capped vireos to return.

Volunteers, meanwhile, completed key-resource surveys of 309 acres, identifying and mapping special wildlife, plant, geological and archaeological resources on the property. So far, they have documented several archaeological sites, small caves, ancient trees and golden-cheeked warbler nesting sites.

All of these data are being used to plan a network of nature trails that will introduce visitors to the wonders of nature in the Hill Country, while protecting sensitive areas.

Supported by:
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Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge
Lumber River State Park
Magnolia Charitable Trust
Mammoth Cave National Park
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Pebble Hill Grove
St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge
Arthur A. Seeligson Conservation Fund
Shangri La Botanical Gardens & Nature Center
South Mountains State Park
Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge
Lawrence Wong

and Darlene Chirman, Kendric Choi, David Graves, Richard Hendricks, Lora & John James, Kinney & Tyra Kane, Nancy Moysiuk, Patricia Reber, Robert Sauls, Jennifer Steele and Frances Wilmeth

The Bat House Project

Options for homeless bats

More and more Rafinesque's big-eared bats are moving into artificial tree roosts built by BCI and its partners in six states.

About 45 rare Rafinesque's big-eared bats (*Corynorhinus rafinesquii*) moved out of their longtime roost in an abandoned farmhouse last spring and settled into a tower built of cinder blocks. The bats were pregnant females and they gave birth in the artificial tree designed and erected by BCI's Bat House Research Project and its partners at the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge in East Texas.

The same thing was happening some 300 miles east at Mississippi's St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge, where 60 "Rafies" delivered pups in a similar artificial tree.

The two sets of births signal acceptance of the artificial roosts by a species that is threatened range-wide because traditional roosts in extra-large hollow trees are disappearing. A year ago, about 40 female bats and their already-flying pups had moved into two of the artificial trees in Texas, but the young had been born in the farmhouse. Now the bats seem satisfied that their new quarters meet their maternity needs.

The Bat House Project and its partners have been improving artificial trees since the first one was installed in Georgia in 2000. Of the current 22 roosts in six states, all but one has attracted Rafinesque's big-eared bats. Project Coordinator Mylea Bayless is working with university, federal and state biologists to develop a rigorous monitoring program to systematically check the artificial roosts, collecting temperature, humidity and other data that help perfect the design and location of future structures.

The project is also developing partnerships with farmers and others in Texas, Georgia and California to study the benefits of using bat houses as part of pest-reduction strategies. Anecdotal evidence suggests that attracting bats to fields and orchards can help protect crops from insects and reduce pesticide use. These planned studies should scientifically document such benefits.

Millions of bats use bridges as artificial roosts. Bayless is working with transportation departments in several states to incorporate bat-roosting crevices in designs for new and remodeled bridges. Many communities with existing bridge-roosting bat colonies are hoping to build tourism opportunities around the bats' evening emergences, much as Austin, Texas, has benefitted for years from the bats under its Congress Avenue Bridge. Bayless is working with local groups to improve bat viewing and education at bridges in Houston and Round Rock, Texas.

BCI's artificial trees showed last spring that they can meet the needs of maternity colonies, which took up residence in such roosts in Texas and Mississippi.

Philippines A remarkable partnership

Norma Monfort owns and passionately protects a cave on Samal Island in the Philippines. Her cave shelters the largest-known colony of Geoffroy's rousette fruit bats (*Rousettus amplexicaudatus*) in the world. She sought BCI's help in early 2006. Thus began a remarkable partnership that already is enhancing bat conservation in her country.

BCI Founder Merlin Tuttle and Conservation Scientist Dave Waldien visited the island and surveyed the cave, estimating a population of 1.8 million bats. They developed recommendations for managing Monfort Bat Cave, which Monfort enthusiastically embraced. The visit included a widely reported news conference about the bats and their economic importance as pollinators and seed dispersers, as well as meetings with government officials. Tuttle and Waldien also developed a pilot project with Professor Jodi Sedlock of Lawrence University to assess other major caves in the region for current and historic use by bats.

Monfort established Philippine Bat Conservation Inc., with Waldien as a founding trustee, to encourage bat conservation nationwide. BCI also helped Monfort develop an educational exhibit as part of an ecotourism-based effort to help fund continued protection. Waldien returned to Samal Island for the April 2007 opening of Monfort Bat Cave Education Center, attended by over 200 guests, including government leaders. Waldien also met with local, regional and national partners to plan the new cave assessment project and lay the groundwork for additional collaborations in the Philippines.

Supported by:
Beneficia Foundation
Angelica Berrie

Youngsters learn about bats of the Philippines and their value to the environment and economy at the Monfort Bat Cave Education Center.

Bats & Mines Protecting bat sanctuaries

Partnerships built by BCI's Bats and Mines Program have created bat sanctuaries in well over 1,000 abandoned mines during the past decade. And those alliances are still achieving conservation successes for bats in mines.

Rio Tinto (formerly U.S. Borax) and BCI, with funding from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, installed the last of three bat-friendly gates at the Lower Biddy Mine complex in Death Valley, California, last November. Rio Tinto reopened Lower Biddy as part of its effort to manage old mines with significant use by bats and plans to monitor it to ensure optimal conditions for the Townsend's big-eared bats (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) that use it.

BCI and Richard Sherwin of Christopher Newport University developed a management plan for the Gerstley Mine in California for use if mining is renewed there. The mine, home to an important maternity colony of Townsend's big-eared bats, was recently returned to state control. BCI and Rio Tinto previously installed two gates at the mine's other entrances.

Supported by:
Arizona Game & Fish Department
California Dept. of Conservation
Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources
Tillie Page Laird
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Christopher Newport University
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
Rio Tinto
UNIMIN Corporation
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. National Park Service
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
Wisconsin Specialty Sand

Mike Rauschkolb of Rio Tinto retrieves a datalogger that monitors conditions at a bat-friendly gate at the Lower Biddy Mine in California.

In Arizona, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and BCI, with support from Arizona Game & Fish, are working together to protect a colony of California leaf-nosed bats (*Macrotus californicus*) at the Hart Mine. The population fell by about 30 percent, at least partly because of increased human visitation. A protective gate was built in spring 2007.

At UNIMIN Corporation's request, BCI and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources prepared a plan to protect some 23,000 bats of several species that hibernate in Bay City Mine. The planning partners will work with Fairmount Minerals to ensure the bats are protected in critical areas of the mine, while mining proceeds in other parts.

Bridge Bats

Educating city dwellers

Education Programs
Supported by:
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Austin's famous bridge bats, a beloved source of local pride (and of about 10 million tourist dollars a year in Texas's capital city), provide an outstanding opportunity for public education. So BCI is spreading the word there – just as it has since it saved the maternity colony of Mexican free-tailed bats from a panicked city two decades ago.

The bats moved into crevices of the remodeled downtown Congress Avenue Bridge in the early 1980s. Austinites were aghast; many demanded the bats' extermination. Then BCI brought its headquarters to Austin from Wisconsin and launched an intensive education campaign that gradually won over the community. Today, the bats number about 1½ million, the largest urban bat colony in the world, and Austin bills itself as the Bat Capital of America. More than 100,000 people visit to watch the bats' emergences each summer.

BCI educators staff an information booth at the bridge four evenings a week during the summer to distribute brochures and talk to bridge visitors, noting, for example, that the bridge bats eat up to 30,000 pounds of insects each night, reducing the need for pesticides. About 16,000 copies of the *Frætail Flyer* newsletter, produced by BCI and printed by the *Austin American-Statesman*, were provided to tell the story of the bats and their values and to dispel damaging myths.

Media attention was heightened last summer with an inaugural Bat Run 5k event that drew about 500 runners and a Labor Day BatFest that brought more than 30,000 people to the bridge for music, food, art and bat-related activities. The Bat Run and BatFest benefitted BCI financially and brought very positive attention to the bridge bats. Planned as annual events, they are being repeated in 2007.

A survey of 150 bridge visitors found that about 80 percent were from outside the Austin area, 70 percent were visiting the bridge for the first time, and 20 percent requested a membership application.

Outreach

Spreading the word

When people need reliable information about bats – how to get one out of their house, the facts about rabies, looming threats to bats, responses to media misinformation and much more – they often call Bat Conservation International. And they usually end up talking to Science Officer Barbara French.

French responded to more than 5,000 phones calls, emails, letters and faxes during the past year. Bats in buildings and public health were by far the most common issues. And the public increasingly is discovering the wealth of detailed information on these topics that is easily available on BCI's popular website, *www.batcon.org*.

The media also turn routinely to BCI for the facts. French and Founder Merlin Tuttle are interviewed often by local, national and international media for articles and broadcasts that counter myths about bats and emphasize their values. Articles appeared in *National Geographic News*, *BusinessWeek*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Parade Magazine*, *Dallas Morning News* and many others. Broadcasts included programs on Nickelodeon, National Geographic TV, Animal Planet and BBC Radio.

BCI's Photo Library, with an unmatched collection of some 70,000 professional images, supplied 1,570 bat photos for usage ranging from *National Geographic* and the *Washington Post* to school and college textbooks, scientific publications, museum and park exhibits and much more.

Science Officer Barbara French dispels myths about bats and rabies at a news conference in Houston, Texas.

Scholarships

Building future leaders

Young scientists around the world are conducting original research– and honing skills for the future – with support from BCI's Student Research Scholarships. Since 1990, this program has invested $550,770 for research by 237 students in 51 countries. Students, selected on the basis of a review by outside experts, receive scholarships of up to $5,000 for research that enhances bat conservation. BCI Scholars have added significantly to our knowledge of bats, their values and conservation needs, and many are now leaders in science and conservation.

Our partnership with the U.S. Forest Service International Programs, now in its second year, has allowed us to fund 10 additional scholarships annually for work in developing countries, dramatically expanding the program and increasing the size of awards. BCI received a record 95 applications for scholarships for the 2007-08 academic year and funded 21 projects in 13 countries for research in the coming year (*see list at right*).

Last year's 17 BCI Scholars included: Richard Cadenillas (a study of bats' roles as seed dispersers in tropical forests of Peru); Mink Oprea (conservation needs of urban bats in Brazil); Kessarin Utthammachai (benefits farmers receive from wrinkle-lipped bats in Thailand); Matthew Struebig (how bats respond to fragmented forests in Malaysia); Kara McClanahan (use of molecular analysis to identify insects in bat diets in Washington state); and Anton Vlaschenko (importance of rock crevices as hibernation sites in Ukraine). Other scholars worked in Madagascar, New Zealand, Colombia, French Guiana, Panama, Nova Scotia and Alberta in Canada and North Carolina in the United States.


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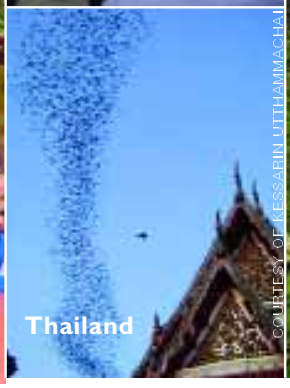
COURTESY OF KESSARIN UTTHAMMACHAI
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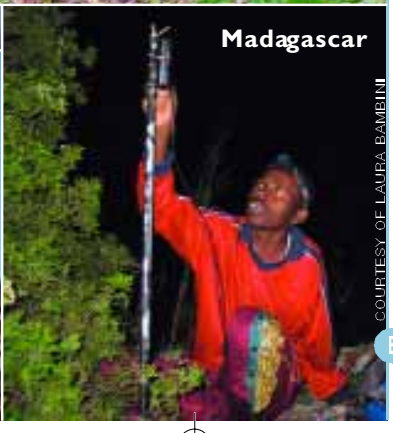
COURTESY OF LAURA BAMBINI
Madagascar

BCI 2007-08 Student Research Scholarships

&

the generous donors whose support made them possible

U.S. Forest Service Bats in International Forestry Research Scholarships

Radosoa Andrianaivoarivelo (University of Aberdeen) Madagascar
Julio Bracamonte (Universidad Nacional de Salta) Argentina
Tania Gonzalez (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico) Mexico
Amyot Kofoky (University of Mahajanga) Madagascar
Leonardo Lopez Damian (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico) Mexico
Tammy Mildenstein (University of Montana) Philippines
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Noa Davidai (University of Tennessee in Knoxville) USA
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Emma Stone (University of Bristol) United Kingdom

Anton Schindler
In loving memory of his wife, Valerie

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Judith Ramirez (University of Arizona, Tucson) USA and Mexico
Matthew Zeale (University of Bristol) United Kingdom

BCI Field Workshops

Supported by:
Bass Foundation Endowment
Bat Conservation and Management Inc.
Wallace Research Foundation

Teaching conservation and research

BCI's Bat Conservation and Management Workshops provide an unmatched learning experience in field research and conservation. Most participants return home not only with new knowledge and skills, but with an enthusiasm that can redirect careers. Some 1,300 professionals and serious amateurs from over 20 countries have attended workshops since 1990. Many are now major players in bat conservation and research programs around the world.

The intense, five-day workshops feature classroom instruction, field trips through varied habitats and evenings spent mist-netting and identifying bats of some 20 species. The Wallace Research Foundation provided workshop scholarships for Arizona residents in 2006 and was so pleased with the results that its scholarships now are available for worthy applicants regardless of residence.

The 2006 workshops – two in Arizona and one each in Kentucky and Pennsylvania, plus an Acoustic Monitoring Workshop in Arizona – trained 82 people from 24 U.S. states and 3 Canadian provinces, plus Brazil, Finland, Madagascar and Nepal. They included 25 federal, state and local biologists and wildlife managers, 11 consultants, 12 representatives of conservation groups, 11 university students and 6 professors.

Participants Mike Myers (*left*) and Jon Lucas use a field key to identify a bat at BCI's Bat Conservation and Management Workshop in Arizona.

Education

Children are the key to a more bat-friendly future, and BCI's exuberant educator, Sarah Zahendra, knew just how to reach them. She gave energetic bat-education presentations at schools throughout the Austin area during the fall semester, teaching more than 1,100 children about the values of bats. Volunteer Rachel Page, a University of Texas doctoral student and bat researcher, shared bat facts with another 360 youngsters.

Education Coordinator Kari Gaukler, meanwhile, is developing a pilot professional-development program to help teachers add more information about bats, bat habitats and bat conservation to their curricula. Draft teaching materials have been prepared and the concept has been refined with focus groups of teachers.

A dozen Austin teachers attended a workshop to test the concept. Their reaction was overwhelmingly positive.

Children visiting Bracken Cave are entranced as BCI's Mylea Bayless shows them a real bat.

North American Bat Conservation Fund

Conservation and research projects throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico are supported by BCI's North American Bat Conservation Fund, which has awarded $360,000 for 104 proposals since 1998. These grants of up to $5,000 each are matched by other funds at an average rate of about 9 to 1, for a total conservation/research value of roughly $3.25 million.

Current NABCF projects include:

- A survey of bat species on St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands, to document their populations, distributions, threats and conservation status.
- A study of potential impacts on bats of management activities in California's Sierra National Forest for use in developing a broad plan of intensive management for fire control on the forest.
- Research into impacts of coffee plantations on diversity and activity of bats in the forests of Chiapas, Mexico.
- Restoration of a deteriorating natural-spring swimming pool where thousands of bats drink at a research station in Arizona.
- A study of the presence and effects of pesticides in dead or dying bats collected by the Indiana Department of Health.

Supported by:
John Lodholz · Andres M. Sada
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Global Grassroots Conservation Fund

Local conservationists often possess specific information and a deep dedication that outsiders can seldom match. BCI supports these homegrown – and often unappreciated – groups through its Global Grassroots Conservation Fund. With advice, encouragement and grants that range from $500 to $5,000, Global Grassroots achieves amazing successes around the globe, including many places where bat conservation has been an alien concept.

The program has funded 66 projects in 32 countries since it was launched in 2000. Grants made during the 2006-07 fiscal year include: bat education in the Ukraine; reducing barbed-wire fatalities among flying foxes in Australia; conserving threatened bats on Cebu Island in the Philippines; training wildlife biologists and educators in Jordan; education to change negative public attitudes about bats in Kenya; teaching bat values and conservation among women's self-help groups in India; bat conservation surveys and education in Nepal; and a program to evaluate bat diversity and needs in Bulgaria and Romania.

COURTESY OF SUJAS PHUYAL

Enjoying bat education in Nepal

Supported by:
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COURTESY OF ANGELA BENTON BROWNE

Learning to identify a horseshoe bat in Indonesia

BCI South Asia Liaison

Bat Conservation International raised its profile and enhanced its impact in South Asia, an especially critical region for bat conservation. We formed a three-year relationship with a tireless friend of bats, India-based Sally Walker, organizer of the Chiroptera Conservation and Information Network of South Asia (CCINSA). Walker is now the BCI South Asia Liaison. This new program improves her ability to undertake long-term conservation projects on behalf of BCI.

Walker, a founder of the Zoo Outreach Organization, helped establish CCINSA eight years ago to encourage and coordinate research, training and conservation of bats in a region where some bats are still classified as vermin. CCINSA's reach extends across India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Afghanistan.

The network, with previous support from BCI's Global Grassroots Conservation Fund, has conducted field workshops in several countries to train students and others in bat-research techniques, developed educational materials for schools and communities and organized international scientific meetings to assess the status of the 123 bat species in South Asia. Walker and her organization were a key part of India's decision in 2003 to grant special protection, for the first time, to two threatened bat species.

Since beginning the new association, CCINSA has updated and expanded its bat-information packets, adding such new topics as human/bat conflicts. More children's features – coloring books, masks, bat-behavior games and plays – were also added.

A "Pterocount" project now has 25 volunteers monitoring fruit-bat roosts, while "bat clubs" are active at schools and universities in several countries of the region. At a six-day training workshop in Nepal, some of the world's top bat biologists gave 42 students a detailed introduction to mist-netting, species identification and other aspects of field research.

COURTESY OF SALLY WALKER

COURTESY OF SALLY WALKER

(*Top*) An original watercolor of a variable flying fox (*Pteropus hypomelanus*) used in a new educational packet for distribution throughout South Asia.

(*Right*) BCI Science Advisor Paul Racey of the University of Aberdeen (UK) shows students how to weigh a bat at a workshop in Nepal.

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COMBINED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

BAT CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL, INC.
As of May 31, 2007 (with summarized financial information as of May 31, 2006)

	May 31, 2007	May 31, 2006
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$1,296,511	$1,040,824
Marketable Securities at Fair Value	421,957	263,103
Trade Accounts Receivable	57,182	23,579
Grants and Pledges Receivable	828,338	662,814
Inventory	58,143	69,412
Deferred Expenses	25,652	228
Total Current Assets	2,687,783	2,059,960
Closely-Held Stock	102,315	102,315
Property, Plant and Equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of $614,781 and $572,154	455,284	497,847
Real Property (Bat Habitat), net of accumulated depreciation of $62,231 and $38,257	1,734,173	1,739,447
Permanently Restricted Assets – Marketable Securities at Fair Value	579,566	579,566
Total assets	$5,559,121	$4,979,135
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities:		
Trade Accounts Payable	$46,774	$17,479
Grants Payable	13,195	28,539
Accrued Expenses	155,147	146,970
Deferred Revenues	18,263	18,341
Advance Deposits and Prepaid Rent	46,992	64,027
Total Current Liabilities	280,371	275,356
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted:		
Invested in Property and Equipment	2,189,457	2,237,294
Designated for Operating Reserve	500,000	249,345
Designated for Endowment Purposes	261,685	261,685
Undesignated	171,933	44,276
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	3,123,075	2,792,600
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	1,576,109	1,331,613
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	579,566	579,566
Total Net Assets	5,278,750	4,703,779
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	$ 5,559,121	$ 4,979,135

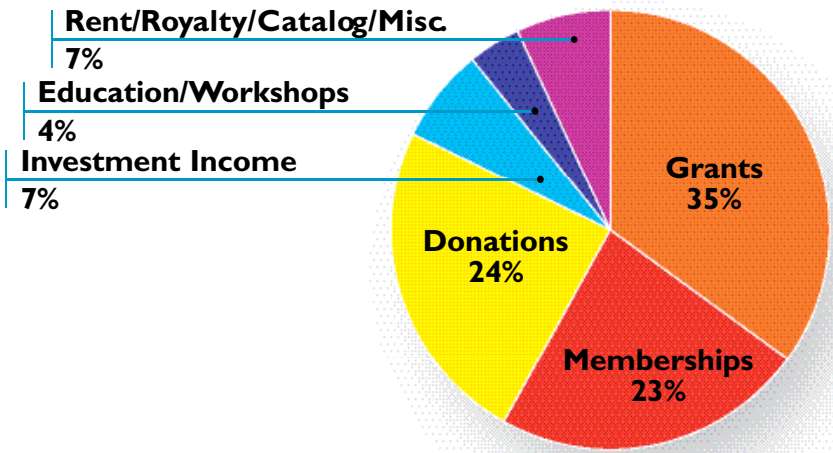
COMBINED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

BAT CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL, INC.
For the Year Ended May 31, 2007 (with summarized financial information for the year ended May 31, 2006)

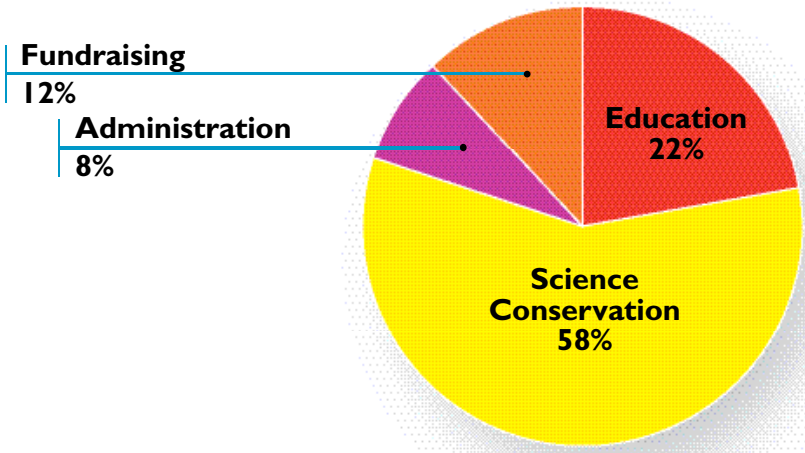
	May31, 2007				May 31, 2006
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Total
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE:					
Grants	$207,500	$909,303	—	$ 1,116,803	$906,964
Memberships	752,403	–	–	752,403	730,217
Donations	704,380	100,365	–	804,745	1,123,960
Catalog sales, net of costs of $175,923 and $189,571	8,768	–	–	8,768	12,484
Investment Income, net	231,210	–	–	231,210	157,069
Contract & Miscellaneous Income	31,744	136,802	–	168,546	136,560
Education/Workshops Income	142,685	–	–	142,685	40,819
Rental Income	45,335	–	–	45,335	44,408
Royalty Income	14,348	–	–	14,348	13,337
Net Assets Released from Restrictions – Restrictions satisfied by payments	901,974	(901,974)	–	–	–
Total Public Support and Revenue	3,040,347	244,496	–	3,284,843	3,165,818
EXPENSES:					
Program Services:					
Education	600,619	–	–	600,619	638,506
Science and Conservation	1,568,577	–	–	1,568,577	1,666,382
Total Program Expenses	2,169,196	–	–	2,169,196	2,304,888
Supporting Services:					
Administrative	214,573	–	–	214,573	221,594
Fund Raising	326,103	–	–	326,103	389,490
Total Supporting Services	540,676	–	–	540,676	611,084
Total Expenses	2,709,872	–	–	2,709,872	2,915,972
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	330,475	244,496	–	574,971	249,846
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	2,792,600	1,331,613	579,566	4,703,779	4,453,933
Net Assets at End of Year	$3,123,075	$1,576,109	$579,566	$5,278,750	$4,703,779

Complete, audited financials are available by writing to BCI at PO Box 162603 • Austin, TX 78716

Revenue:



Expenditures:



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The Year Ahead

A few years ago, wind power was the unquestioned poster child of renewable energy. Promoted by many environmental groups, giant wind turbines with their spinning blades sprouted from the landscape across North America. Hints that turbines might be killing bats were largely dismissed or ignored.

Then Bat Conservation International and its allies focused scientific and public attention on the problem. BCI, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the American Wind Energy Association, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory created the Bats and Wind Energy Cooperative (BWEC) in December 2003 and launched systematic studies to understand the nature and extent of the problem and work toward solutions.

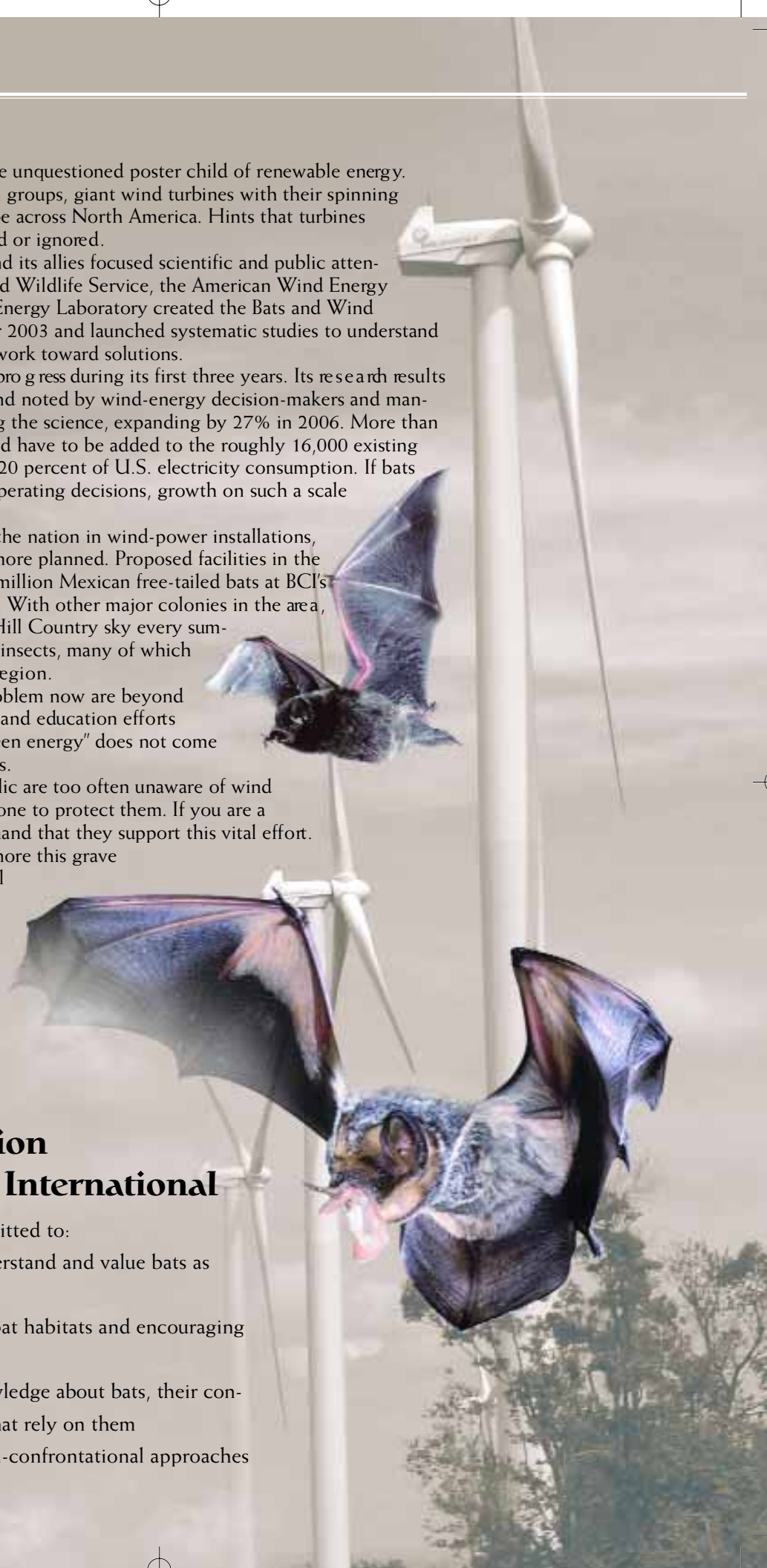
The Cooperative has made substantial progress during its first three years. Its research results are being published in scientific journals and noted by wind-energy decision-makers and managers. But wind energy growth is outpacing the science, expanding by 27% in 2006. More than 150,000 two-megawatt wind turbines would have to be added to the roughly 16,000 existing U.S. turbines to meet the industry goal of 20 percent of U.S. electricity consumption. If bats are not seriously factored into siting and operating decisions, growth on such a scale could put whole species at risk.

BCI's headquarters state of Texas leads the nation in wind-power installations, with more than 1,400 turbines and many more planned. Proposed facilities in the Texas Hill Country could threaten the 20 million Mexican free-tailed bats at BCI's fabled Bracken Bat Cave & Nature Reserve. With other major colonies in the area, an estimated 100 million bats take to the Hill Country sky every summer night, consuming hundreds of tons of insects, many of which would otherwise ravage farm crops in the region.

The scope and critical nature of the problem now are beyond doubt. We must expand both our research and education efforts immediately to ensure that the rush to "green energy" does not come at the expense of whole populations of bats.

Decision-makers, investors and the public are too often unaware of wind power's threats to bats and what must be done to protect them. If you are a member of other conservation groups, demand that they support this vital effort. Do not invest in energy companies that ignore this grave threat to bats. Advise your state and federal lawmakers and appropriate regulators of the problem. Write your local newspaper. Participate in hearings.

You can make a difference.



The Mission of Bat Conservation International

Bat Conservation International is committed to:

- **Education** – Teaching people to understand and value bats as essential allies
- **Conservation** – Protecting bats and bat habitats and encouraging others to join in our efforts
- **Research** – Advancing scientific knowledge about bats, their conservation needs and the ecosystems that rely on them
- **Win-Win Solutions** – Relying on non-confrontational approaches that help both bats and people