

BAT CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL
www.batcon.org

Annual Report
2002 ~ 2003

Dear BCI members and friends:

This has been perhaps the most challenging year that we as an organization have ever faced. Extremely painful decisions have been forced upon us. The national economic difficulties and stock market setbacks, which have battered so many of us, hit especially hard at nonprofits that depend for their existence on the generosity of members, donors, and foundations. And as always, but especially in hard times, bats – despite their vital role in maintaining the world's environmental health – do not fare well in the beauty contests that often determine public support for threatened creatures.

At Bat Conservation International, these harsh realities required extreme measures. As 21 years of annual reports testify, we have always been a small and lean organization. There was no fat to trim. We have cut into muscle and sinew to reduce our expenses to the absolute minimum required to continue our mission. In the past 12 months, BCI has, with great regret, reduced its staff by 25 percent. Every expenditure is minutely examined.

BCI will survive this challenge, as it has others in the past. Our mission is too important to do otherwise. As you will see in this report, we are still building partnerships to protect bats and their habitats around the world. We are still teaching the real story of bats to biologists, wildlife managers, volunteers, schoolchildren, and whole communities. We are still supporting crucial research to improve our understanding of bats, their needs, and their contributions to both humans and nature.

Our continued progress is due to the dedication of BCI's staff, the loyalty of our members, and the generosity of many of our friends. Yet, more than ever, our goals far exceed our grasp, and many important bat-conservation needs must go unmet. With resources stretched so thin, we must reject many worthy requests for student research scholarships, Global Grassroots Conservation grants, and other BCI support, including habitat protection and public-education opportunities.

Your support now can have an especially big impact on bat conservation. Join us. Together, we can make a difference – now and for generations to come.



Merlin D. Tuttle
President and
Chief Executive Officer

Bat Conservation International

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Merlin Tuttle".

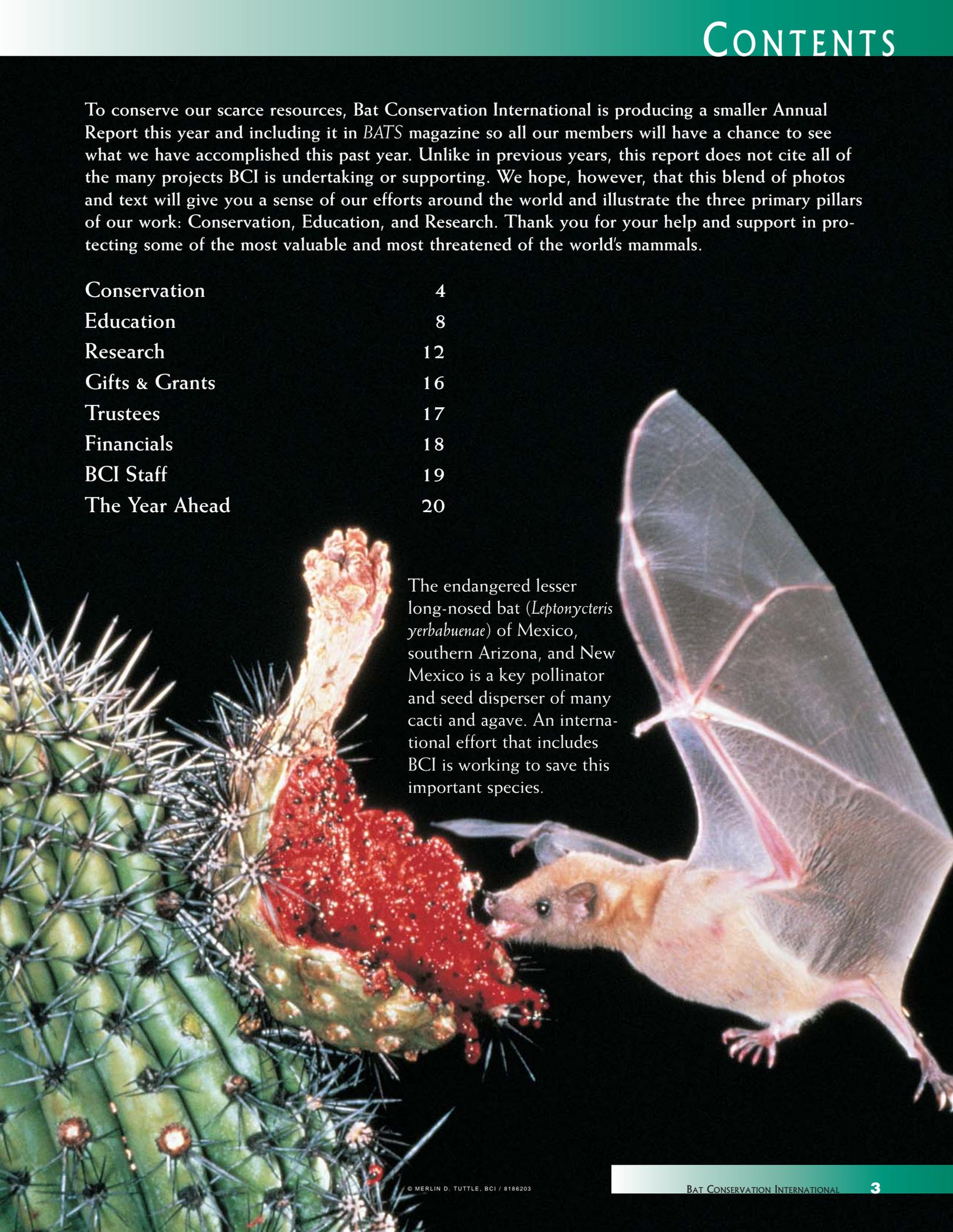


Andrew Sansom
Chairperson,
Board of Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Sansom".

To conserve our scarce resources, Bat Conservation International is producing a smaller Annual Report this year and including it in *BATS* magazine so all our members will have a chance to see what we have accomplished this past year. Unlike in previous years, this report does not cite all of the many projects BCI is undertaking or supporting. We hope, however, that this blend of photos and text will give you a sense of our efforts around the world and illustrate the three primary pillars of our work: Conservation, Education, and Research. Thank you for your help and support in protecting some of the most valuable and most threatened of the world's mammals.

Conservation	4
Education	8
Research	12
Gifts & Grants	16
Trustees	17
Financials	18
BCI Staff	19
The Year Ahead	20



The endangered lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris yerbabuena*) of Mexico, southern Arizona, and New Mexico is a key pollinator and seed disperser of many cacti and agave. An international effort that includes BCI is working to save this important species.

MANY FOREST-DWELLING bats roost in big, hollow trees, which are fast disappearing from today's woodlands. BCI and partners are developing innovative alternative roosts for forest bats. These simulated hollow trees are built of modified sections of culverts or manhole shafts that are stacked and mounted on a concrete foundation.

Here, Tom Finn works on a 'stack roost' for Rafinesque's big-eared bats (*Corynorhinus rafinesquii*) on sponsor Walter Sedgewick's plantation in southern Georgia. BCI has seven prototypes in place, and big-eared bats have been seen in at least six of them. The cost of these roosts may limit their use, so we are exploring less-costly alternatives.

Conservation is the soul of BCI. Virtually everything we do around the world is focused on that one goal: protecting the world's always-threatened bats and their habitats. Bats are so important to the environmental and economic health of the planet that their conservation can hardly be overvalued.

We registered many solid successes this year, despite our limited resources. Our Bats and Mines Program, allied with government agencies, caver groups, and corporations, helped put more than a dozen bat-friendly gates on abandoned mines around the country. BCI's North American Bat Conservation Partnership was active in forests, mines, caves, and urban areas continentwide. The seeds planted by our partnership with the Program for the Conservation of Mexican Bats are bearing fruit in the form of similar organizations around Central and South America.

We have finally acquired 700 acres surrounding Bracken Cave – Texas home of the world's largest bat colony. The awesome spectacle of their evening emergence is on the way to becoming a powerful public-education tool. Protecting these bats and their environment is a top BCI priority.

There is much to be done.



COURTESY OF LAURA FINN / 0010188



SCOTT KELLY AND LYNN ROBBINS / 0010189



COLIN GATLAND © BCI / 0010109

BCI's Jim Kennedy (left) and Merlin Tuttle count endangered gray bats (*Myotis grisescens*)

in Alabama's Fern Cave, the nation's largest gray bat hibernaculum. They found an apparently healthy, undisturbed population of up to 1.5 million or more of these bats. As a result of Tuttle's efforts, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bought the cave in 1981 and sharply limits access during the bats' hibernation season. The gray bat, whose extinction was predicted in 1969, probably is BCI's greatest success story: After 20 years of work, the species is on the verge of graduating from the endangered list.

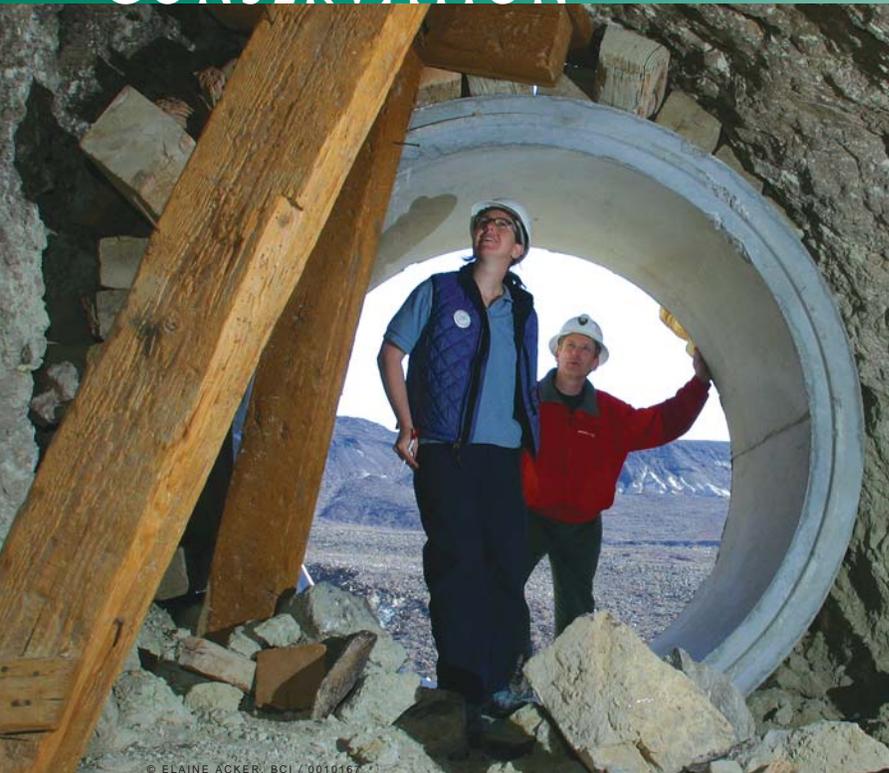
Left: **SCOTT KELLY, WITH SUPPORT** from BCI's North American Bat Conservation Partnership, is experimenting with various artificial-roost designs for endangered Indiana bats (*Myotis sodalis*) in Missouri. The bats typically roost beneath loose tree bark, and Kelly is studying various materials that might mimic the exfoliating bark.

BCI ESTABLISHED A PARTNERSHIP with the California Department of Conservation to install bat-friendly gates at three abandoned mines: Lucky Jim (right), Stonehouse, and Mountaineer. The mines house some of the state's most significant bat colonies, with fringed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*) and California leaf-nosed bats (*Macrotus californicus*) at the Lucky Jim.



© FAITH WATKINS, BCI / 0010190

CONSERVATION



DIFFERENT MINES AND BATS NEED DIFFERENT GATES. BCI Bats and Mines Coordinator Faith Watkins, above at an in-progress gate at a U.S. Borax mine near Ryan, California, and at right (in the white T-shirt) at Devil's Hole Cave in Death Valley, helped install bat-friendly gates and establish surveying, monitoring, and conservation plans in a number of states last year. Among many other efforts, she worked with the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service to update its *National Practice Conservation Standards for Bats and Mines*. The cupola gate shown below protects the U.S. Borax Lila C Mine in the Southern California desert.



© ELAINE ACKER, BCI / 00101386



© ELAINE ACKER, BCI / 0010144



THE MEXICAN LONG-NOSED BAT (*Leptonycteris nivalis*), an important pollinator of commercially important agave plants, is found in northern and central Mexico, the southwestern corner of New Mexico, and the Big Bend area of Texas. Remaining populations of this nectar-feeding bat are at great risk. The bat is listed as endangered by both the United States and Mexico. For three summers, BCI biologists have been studying Mexican long-nosed bats in the Big Bend, using radio-tagging and other methods, to determine its current status and learn more about its habits so an effective recovery plan can be developed. The results are being analyzed, and the final reports may offer new hope for this species.

BCI'S BATS AND FORESTS INITIATIVE, working with a number of partners, is testing a variety of artificial roost structures and placements to develop the most effective strategies for supporting forest bats, especially in commercially managed forests. Initial results of the pilot project are very promising. About 15 sites in South Carolina forests (*below*) were added to the program in 2002. All the roost stations in Minnesota (*right*) and in Oregon are being used by bats. BCI is undertaking educational programs with project partners and local community groups and plans to distribute results of the project. Woodlands management and roosting alternatives are increasingly a focus of BCI research, as forest bats lose many of their traditional roosts in dead and dying trees. BCI co-sponsored a workshop in Kentucky to share with forestry professionals the latest data on how best to include bats in woodlands management. We also presented this important information on forest bats at several symposia.





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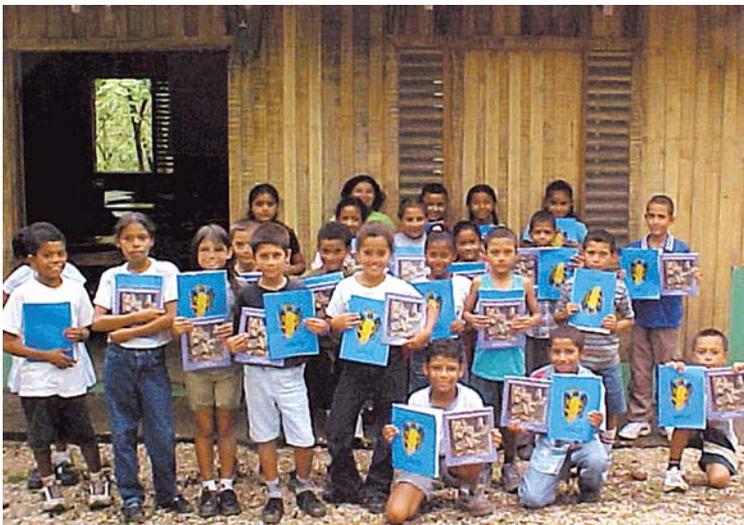
COURTESY OF BRENT SEWELL / 0010191

Bad PR – centuries of it – is the biggest single threat facing the world's bats. No mammal is more misunderstood, needlessly feared, or plagued by malicious myths. So we miss few chances to spread the truth about these gentle and valuable animals – whether it's in our own Texas backyard, on an African island, or in a classroom in rural Mexico.

BCI staff described the wonders of bats and the perils they face to hundreds of groups ranging from garden clubs and grade-school classes to the prestigious Chautauqua Institution in New York State. Our members, BCI Scholars, Global Grassroots Bat Conservation Fund grant recipients, partners, and others took that message around the world.

We conducted, sponsored, and co-sponsored workshops for educators, park visitors, wildlife biologists, government and corporate foresters and many others, fielded thousands of requests for information, and worked with media that reached millions of people around the world.

About 2,500 people showed up for BCI's sixth annual Free-tail Free for All (*top photo*) at the Congress Avenue Bridge in downtown Austin, home to 1.5 million bats. BCI Scholar Brent Sewell explains his work with Old World fruit bats to villagers in the Comoros Islands off the African Coast (*center photo*). And in Mexico (*bottom left*), youngsters got bat facts and fun, courtesy of the Program for the Conservation of Mexican Bats.



COURTESY OF PCMM / 0010192

KIDS AND BATS SEEM TO GO TOGETHER. Children are fascinated by the delightful flying mammals, and bat houses are a sure way to get their attention (left). Two Bat House Builders' Workshops for children and their families, co-hosted by BCI and The Home Depot, were hugely popular.

THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE PRODUCED its first-ever U.S. postage stamps featuring bats. The dedication of the stamps in Austin, Texas, drew 1,500 people, including Congressman Lloyd Doggett, seen below with BCI Founder Merlin Tuttle. The four stamps, featuring Tuttle's photographs, came about largely through the efforts of BCI member Carol Adams.



© CARRIE ROBERTSON, BCI / 0010183



© ELAINE ACKER, BCI / 0010206

DEVIL'S SINKHOLE, A TEXAS STATE NATURAL AREA cave with up to 2 million Mexican free-tailed bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) in the summer, draws thousands of visitors. It now sports a bat-education display at its visitor's center, thanks to BCI. Our extensive line of educational material is used in bat displays around the world. Here, BCI/Texas Parks & Wildlife Conservation Coordinator Meg Goodman works with Ben Banahan of the Devil's Sinkhole Society.



© ELAINE ACKER, BCI / 0010194



Mexican biologists and government wildlife officials learned the basics of mist-netting for bats

from BCI scientific advisor Arnulfo Moreno (*second from right*) and BCI staffers at a Decision Makers' Workshop in Monterrey, Mexico. About 30 key individuals learned about bat-monitoring techniques, bat houses, and effective bat-conservation programs. They also received BCI bilingual education materials for programs at parks around Mexico. More than 1,400 people from at least 17 countries have graduated from BCI field workshops, many of them with a new commitment to bat conservation and a wealth of knowledge about bat research, habitats, and conservation and education needs.



BCI CO-HOSTED an education workshop at the San Diego Natural History Museum (*left*) for U.S. and Mexican teachers and education administrators. In partnership with BCI, the museum will use BCI materials to train other teachers from Mexico. Meanwhile, the Bell Gardens of San Diego is installing bat houses and will teach some 20,000 students a year about the benefits of bats.



INDIA HAS BEEN A LONGTIME CHALLENGE for bat conservation. Home to 130 species of bats that are essential insect-eaters, pollinators, and seed-dispersers, the nation's Wildlife Protection Act gave the insect-eating bats no protection and classified fruit bats as vermin. That is finally starting to change through efforts initiated by BCI that now include the World Conservation Union, Madurai Kamaraj University, the Zoo Outreach Organization, and others. Public attitudes about bats are changing, and two species now have official protection. BCI sponsored a bat workshop in India and financially supported bat-awareness programs for children ages 5 to 12. Some of the results are seen at left.

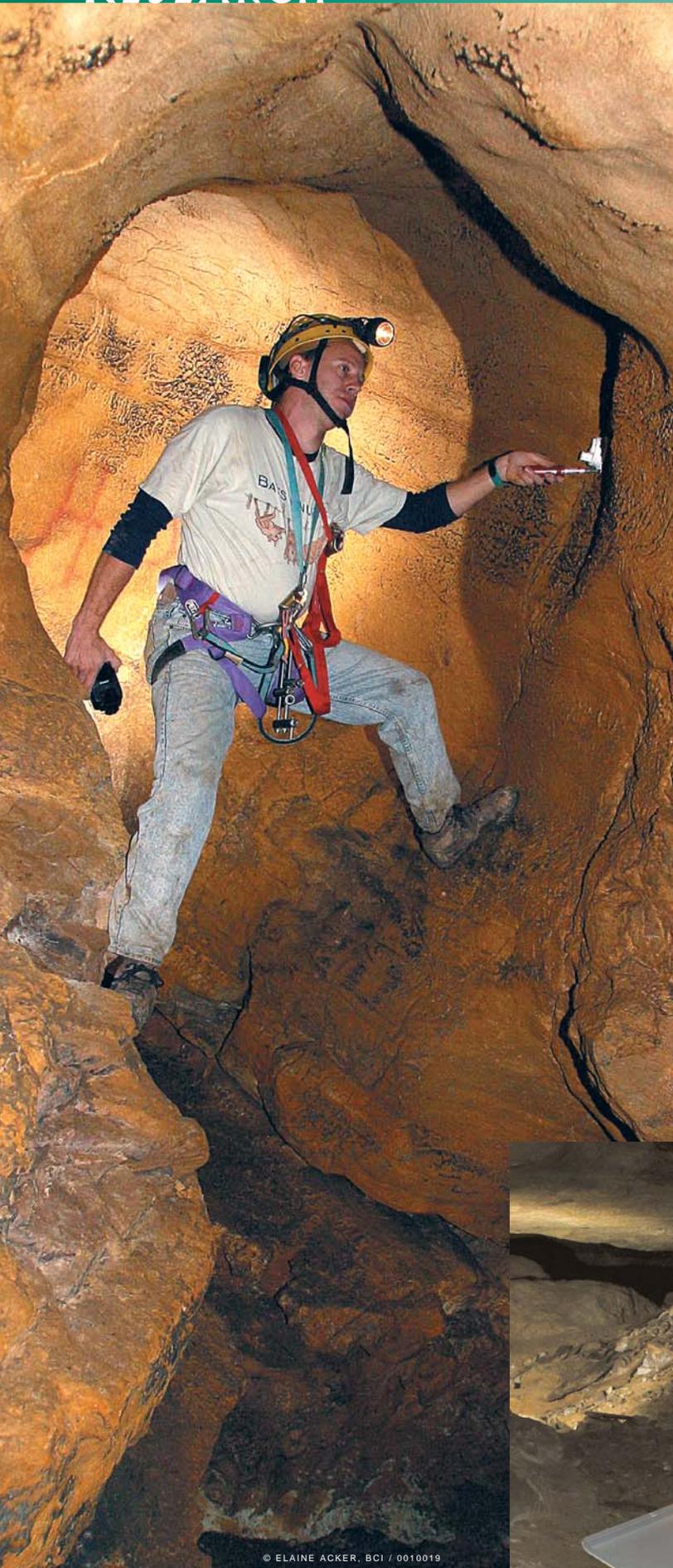
BCI'S COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION in Latin America extends back to its earliest years, with the production of educational materials on controlling vampire bats. We continue to lead and participate in education (right) at all levels throughout the region and in a variety of research and conservation efforts, including such international programs as the study of endangered lesser long-nosed bats (*Leptonycteris yerbabuena*).



BAT CONSERVATION is spreading across Latin America. The first bat workshop was held in Guatemala, and plans were laid for a formal organization.



A LIVE WEBCAST ON BATS AND CAVES in Texas reached more than 20,000 students along the U.S.-Mexico border. The project, co-hosted by BCI and Texas Parks & Wildlife, included live video-streaming, special Web pages, and an interactive chat room. Here, BCI's Jim Kennedy and Pat Morton of TPW demonstrate the use of radiotelemetry equipment for tracking bats.



© ELAINE ACKER, BCI / 0010019

To protect bats, we must understand them – and even today, few mammals are as under-studied as bats. Bat Conservation International, since its earliest beginnings, has been conducting scientific research itself and supporting the research of others.

Our Student Scholarship Fund has given 172 graduate-student grants for research in 44 countries since 1990; we supported research in 12 countries last year. These scholarships provide seed money that has drawn matching grants from outside sources at a ratio of 10-to-1 – for a total of \$2.54 million in research support. Nurturing these young scholars pays even greater dividends in the future, as they become some of the world's leading bat researchers and conservationists.

The Bats and Mines program protects countless bats in hundreds of mines; in the past year, we financially supported or consulted on bat-friendly gates for 14 mines. BCI cave research has, among other discoveries, identified key cave conditions that may lead to the recovery of the endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*). Our North American Bat Conservation Partnership supports research to improve wildlife management and other aspects of bat conservation.

The North American Bat House Project, analyzing and distributing data collected by thousands of volunteer bat house enthusiasts, has dramatically improved the chances of success with bat houses. The project is now exploring other types of alternative roosts for bats that don't use traditional bat houses.

As part of BCI's Indiana bat research, Cave Resources Specialist Jim Kennedy works on a datalogger (which records temperature and humidity variations) at Linefork Cave in Kentucky (*left photo*), and sets out trays (*below*) to collect droppings for population studies at Virginia's Rocky Hollow Cave.



© ELAINE ACKER, BCI / 0010031



COURTESY OF MICHELLE EVELYN / 0010199

BCI SCHOLAR MICHELLE EVELYN (above, at left) and helpers set out seed traps to catch bat droppings that will be analyzed for seed dispersal in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. With help from BCI scholarship grants, Evelyn is completing her Stanford University Ph.D. research on the roosting needs of fruit-eating bats in tropical forests fragmented by agriculture. Much of her work stresses the importance of bats in regenerating the forests.

ANNE-JIFKE HAARSMAS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP supports efforts to locate and conserve a maternity colony of pond bats (*Myotis dasycneme*) in the Netherlands. The pond bat at left has been banded for later identification.



© ROLLIN VERLINDE / 0010200

PAUL CRYAN, A BCI SCHOLAR at the University of New Mexico (right), is determining the seasonal distribution of three migratory, forest bats. Some of these bats follow incredibly long – possibly transcontinental – migration routes, but very little is known with certainty about their migratory patterns, which makes their conservation difficult.



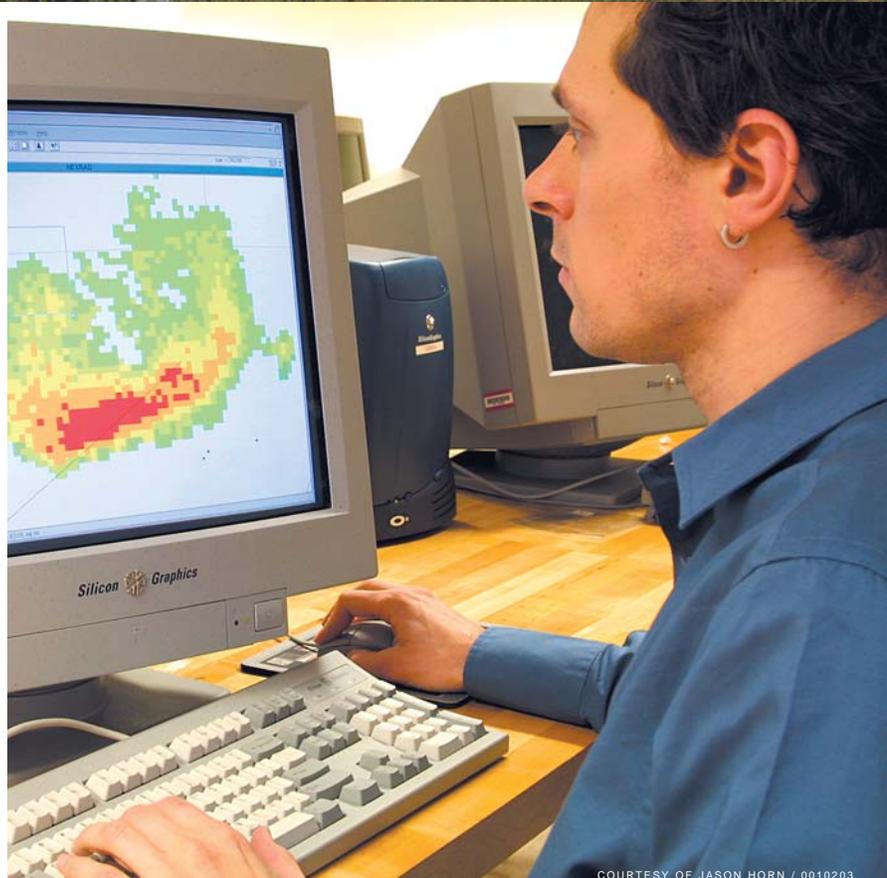
© L. BARKER / 0010201



COURTESY OF ANDREA LOAYZA / 0010202

IN BOLIVIA, ANDREA LOAYZA GOES HORSEBACK to track radio-tagged bats and document their role in dispersing seeds across cleared or savannah areas of forests. A Bolivian studying at the University of Missouri in St. Louis, Loayza is using her BCI scholarship grant to determine the diets, movements, and impacts of fruit-eating bats in naturally fragmented forests. She is a founding member of the BCI-sponsored Program for Bat Conservation in Bolivia.

WHEN THE IMMENSE COLONIES OF MEXICAN FREE-TAILED BATS (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) emerge each summer evening for a night of foraging, their path is clearly marked on weather radar. BCI Scholar Jason Horn of Boston University is using radar images (*right*) in south-central Texas to estimate the size of the colonies and document their nightly feeding activity. The information is being used in a computer model to systematically assess the free-tails' impact in controlling agricultural pests.



COURTESY OF JASON HORN / 0010203



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THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEER RESEARCH ASSOCIATES in 49 states, eight Canadian provinces, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Cayman Islands have over the past decade installed and monitored bat houses and fed their results to BCI's North American Bat House Research Project. Analyses of those data have established the most effective bat house installations and dramatically improved the success of the houses. Organic farmers increasingly are turning to bat houses as part of their efforts to control pests without chemicals. BCI is conducting research with Rachael Long of the University of California Cooperative Extension to document bats' impact in local crop protection. The project is monitoring 45 bat houses on 10 organic farms in California's Central Valley. The bat houses at left are going up near Hilmar, California.

JOHN WESTBROOK (BELOW) AND PAUL SCHLEIDER of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Gary McCracken of the University of Tennessee are developing, with BCI support, a unique pest-control strategy that uses electronically simulated bat calls to frighten insects away from crops.



COURTESY OF JOHN WESTBROOK 7 0010204

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\$10,000 and above

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Beneficia Foundation
Boise Cascade Corporation.
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\$1,000 - \$4,999

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FINANCIALS

COMBINED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

BAT CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL, INC.

As of May 31, 2003 (with summarized financial information as of May 31, 2002)

	May 31, 2003	May 31, 2002
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 986,546	\$ 887,455
Marketable Securities at Fair Value	54,722	508,090
Accounts and Grants Receivable	314,507	646,621
Inventory	67,217	57,912
Deferred Expenses	232	854
Total Current Assets	1,423,224	2,100,932
Notes Receivable	—	14,208
Closely-Held Stock	102,315	102,315
Property, Plant and Equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$495,612 and \$452,201	470,782	498,352
Real Property (Bat Habitat)	1,524,533	1,397,563
Permanently Restricted Assets:		
Marketable Securities at Fair Value	481,566	481,566
Total Assets	\$ 4,002,420	\$ 4,594,936
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable and Accruals	\$ 108,309	\$ 148,510
Deferred Revenues	19,485	26,505
Advance Deposits and Prepaid Rent	17,370	20,187
Total Current Liabilities	145,164	195,202
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	2,151,552	2,304,677
Temporarily Restricted	1,224,138	1,613,491
Permanently Restricted	481,566	481,566
Total Net Assets	3,857,256	4,399,734
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 4,002,420	\$ 4,594,936

COMBINED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

BAT CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL, INC.

For the Year Ended May 31, 2003 (with summarized financial information for the year ended May 31, 2002)

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	May 31, 2003 Total	May 31, 2002 Total
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE					
Grants	\$ 24,000	\$ 415,042	\$ —	\$ 439,042	\$ 841,415
Memberships	692,062	—	—	692,062	663,407
Donations	663,575	110,443	—	774,018	446,777
Catalog sales, net of cost of \$175,651 and \$161,864	50,850	—	—	50,850	50,023
Investment Income	(37,518)	—	—	(37,518)	120,144
Miscellaneous Income	23,749	13,019	—	36,768	61,590
Education/Workshops Income	131,270	8,461	—	139,731	99,036
Rental Income	20,600	—	—	20,600	51,666
Royalty Income	15,631	—	—	15,631	36,467
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	—	—	—	—	—
Restrictions Satisfied by Payments	936,318	(936,318)	—	—	—
Total Public Support and Revenue	2,520,537	(389,353)	—	2,131,184	2,370,525
EXPENSES:					
Program Services:					
Education	709,079	—	—	709,079	757,112
Science and Conservation	1,545,583	—	—	1,545,583	1,645,309
Total Program Expenses	2,254,662	—	—	2,254,662	2,402,421
Supporting Services:					
Administrative	183,636	—	—	183,636	180,817
Fund Raising	235,364	—	—	235,364	189,796
Total Supporting Services	419,000	—	—	419,000	370,613
Total Expenses	2,673,662	—	—	2,673,662	2,773,034
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	(153,125)	(389,353)	—	(542,478)	(402,509)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	2,304,677	1,613,491	481,566	4,399,734	4,802,243
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 2,151,552	\$ 1,224,138	\$ 481,566	\$ 3,857,256	\$ 4,399,734

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

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Eastern red bats (*Lasiurus borealis*)

Merlin D. Tuttle
President & Chief Executive Officer
Elaine Acker
Associate Executive Director

Nicole Daspit
Acting Director of Development
Robert Locke
Director of Publications & Public Information
Linda Moore
Director of Administration & Finance
Patrick Ludden
Executive Assistant

Education, Conservation & Research

Barbara French
Science Officer
Meg Goodman
TPW/BCI Texas Conservation Coordinator
Jim Kennedy
Cave Resources Specialist
Mark Kiser
North American Bat House Research Project Coordinator
Selena Kiser
NABHRP Assistant
Andy Moore
Special Programs Coordinator
Carrie Robertson
Borderlands Coordinator
Dan Taylor
Director of Bats & Forests
Faith Watkins
North American Bats & Mines Project Director

Membership

Amy McCartney
Membership Manager
Mary Priddy
Membership Assistant

Visual Resources

Kristin Hay
Visual Resources Manager

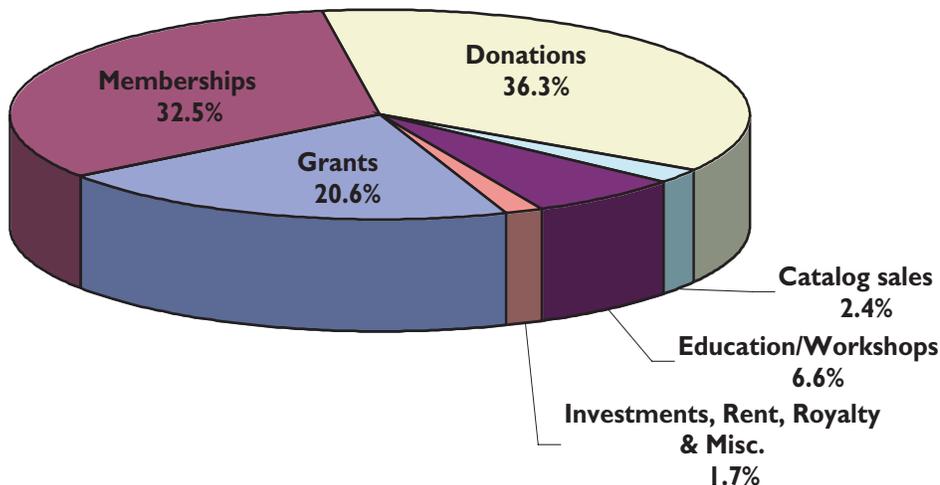
Information Services

Julie Jenkins
Web Assistant
Bryan Ockert
Manager of Information Systems

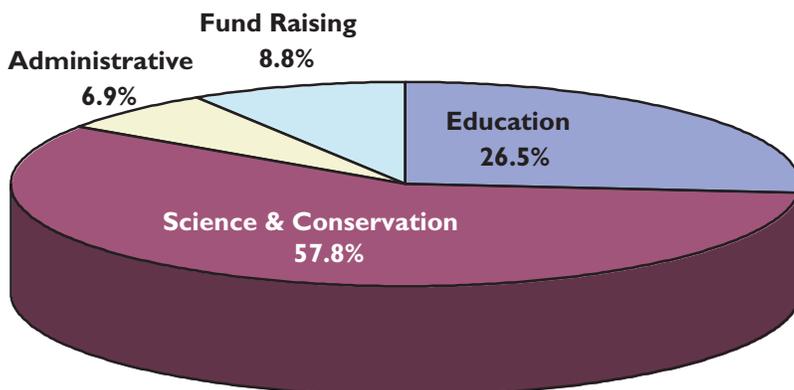
Administrative Support

Marianne Austin
Catalog/Mail Coordinator
Lana Conly
Receptionist
Carolyn Kelly
Administrative Assistant

Revenue:



Expenses:





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The unforgettable spectacle of the world's largest colony of bats emerging each summer night

from Bracken Cave is under the protection of Bat Conservation International. Our goal is to develop this unique resource into a powerful – and environmentally gentle – education tool to share the wonders and values of bats with people from around the world.



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During the past five years, I've had the pleasure of meeting many of our valued members. I'm always energized by your enthusiasm for bats and your confidence in us to use your donations wisely.

I'm often asked: "What else can I do to help?" The best answer: "Invite others to

join BCI." Your excitement is contagious, and you have the ability to influence your friends, family, and co-workers to create a brighter future for bats.

Personal commitment makes an enormous difference. Your contributions, of course, make our worldwide efforts possible. And as many of you have proven repeatedly, each one of us can also have a wonderful impact at home, in our own neighborhoods and cities. You can, for instance:

- ◆ Install a bat house and watch bats patrol your yard for bothersome insects.
- ◆ Encourage teachers to include bats in lesson plans about nature and the environment.
- ◆ Give bat talks in your community and invite others to join BCI. We have a treasure trove of slide shows and videos that make it easy for you to correct the many harmful misconceptions about bats.

This year, I assumed the duties of Associate Executive Director. While I am delighted to celebrate our past successes, it is vital that we stay focused on the many challenges ahead. We have an experienced staff that is passionately dedicated to the conservation of bats and critical habitats around the globe. Your contributions of time and money allow us to face these challenges day after day. We thank you.

Elaine Acker
Associate Executive Director