

THE NIGHT FLYER

NEWS FROM THE FLORIDA BAT CONSERVANCY



OUR MISSION

To preserve & protect native bat populations within the state of Florida.

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UNIVERSITY PRESS OF FLORIDA RELEASES AUTHORITY GUIDE TO FLORIDA BATS

...and the authors are none other than our own Cyndi and George Marks!

Bats of Florida provides a careful and complete description of each of Florida's bat species, including its foraging methods, range, roosting habitat, reproductive behaviors, and echolocation. This is the first book dedicated solely to bats in Florida, and it features color photographs of each species, numerous black-and-white photographs, drawings, tables, charts, range maps, and an illustrated key for identifying species.

With more than 15 years' experience working with the state's flying mammals, Cyndi and George have cared for and rehabilitated hundreds of injured and orphaned bats. Founders of the Florida Bat Conservancy in 1994, they translate their experiences with bats and people into an objective view of bats and human health, dispelling misunderstandings and separating realistic concerns from exaggerated fears. *Bats of Florida* also reveals the intriguing stories behind the unoccupied bat tower at Sugarloaf Key and the successfully occupied University of Florida bat house, the largest sanctuary of its kind in North America.

"I truly hope government agencies will use this book as an informational resource when advising the public about bats," Cyndi said. "My greatest wish is that this

book will change people's attitudes about bats and dispel the fears and misinformation many have about these amazing animals."

Cyndi also serves on the advisory boards of the Florida Wildlife Rehabilitators Association and the Northwest Florida Environmental Conservancy and is chair of the Florida Bat Working Group. George is an expert in bat echolocation.

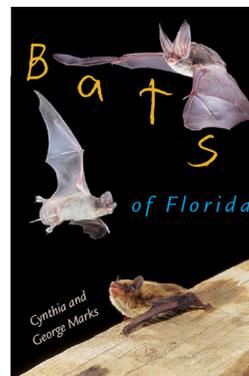
Here's what others are saying about it:

"An invaluable, readable, and usable authoritative reference to Florida bat biology, ecology, conservation, public health, and identification. Anyone who has an interest in this unique group of mammals will wish to have a copy."--*John H. Fitch, Florida Bat*

Watch

"Well-written [and] illustrated . . . celebrates the symphony of adaptations of these creatures of Florida's night skies. The photographs and drawings . . . provide clear tools for identification; history, folklore, and ecology are blended to form a most readable guide."--*Jerome A. Jackson, author of In Search of the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker*

A limited number of copies have been reserved at a discount for FBC Members. See the order form on the back of this issue!





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FBC in the Community: Upcoming Education Programs

September 16: Key Largo Library, 2:00 pm

September 20: Chinsegut Nature Center—Brooksville, 7:00 pm

September 21: Citrus County Master Gardener's Meeting—Lecanto, 10:00 am

October 5: Choctawhatchee Audubon Society—Niceville, 6:30 pm

October 10: Sawgrass Nature Center—Ft. Lauderdale, 7:00 pm

October 12: Polk County Sierra Club—Winter Haven, 6:30 pm

October 14: J. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge—Sanibel Island, 3:00 pm



October 28: Batty Night with the Florida Bat Conservancy, 6:00–8:30 pm at Pinellas County Extension. Family program with limited space available; \$3 per person. Registration required—call 727-582-2673. Activities include a night hike with bat sonar detectors, a program with live bats, bat crafts for kids, and batty refreshments!

For more information or directions to any of these programs, please call us: 727-710-2287

Our **Volunteer Wish List** includes a variety of tasks with many different skill requirements! If you can donate time, please let us know.

- Website maintenance
- Order fulfillment / Shipping
- Membership renewals
- Bat house data base manager
- Answering bat house emails
- Answering bats in buildings emails
- Bat Rescue - help transfer injured and orphaned bats to FBC or to local wildlife rehabilitators

Specialized Needs:

- Printing service to create color educational brochures
- Older laptop (pre-Windows XP) for running DOS based bat detector software

Call or email today!

In the next issue of *The Night Flyer*:

- ⇒ Shawna Himelright reports on *Stormwater Pollution and the Role of Bat Conservation in Plant City*. Each year, FDOT District 7 provides money to different municipalities and environmental interest groups in order to raise community awareness of water pollution. This year, some of the funding will go toward conserving our favorite winged insectivores.
- ⇒ David Redfield is providing travel journal entries as he treks across the world adding birds, mammals, reptiles, and more to his personal life list. Read more about the creatures and people he encounters during his quest.
- ⇒ Bat house success stories—what happens after the house goes up? Send your success stories to floridabats@aol.com and we'll include yours!



FBC Member Makes International News

On a trip to see Kitti's hog-nosed bats, retired FSU professor captures a 'living fossil' Laotian rock rat on video

BY DAVID REDFIELD

Only a dozen or so people in the Western World have ever seen a living Kitti's hog-nosed bat. It's the smallest mammal on earth, weighing about as much as a dime. Formerly considered one of the 12 most critically endangered mammals, the locations of its small roosting caves are kept secret. What chance would I have to ever see one?

Most available literature indicated that this bat only exists in Thailand. But where? My first lead came from a Google search of the web where I found the enterprising Siam Buri Resort's page. That page mentioned the historic River Kwai Bridge and Sai Yok National Park where "rare Kitti's hog-nosed bats are found". So much for the national secret!

Another clue came from talking with a representative of Bat conservation International. BCI and the New York Zoological Society sponsored a young Thai's doctoral dissertation on the bats in 1984, ten years after the bats were first discovered. That student, Surapon Duangkhae, has become one of Thailand's foremost conservationists.

Adam Riley of Rockjumper Birding asked his Thai tour ground agent Uthai Treesucon to help me. Uthai contacted his school classmate Surapon, who in turn recommended using his PhD student Medhi Yokubo to lead us to the "secret" cave. Medhi agreed. Uthai made all local arrangements and traveled with me.

Medhi took us directly to a Cliffside Buddhist temple where we faced 319 steep steps to the cave's entrance. The effort was well rewarded with five new bat species including over thirty Kitti's hog-nosed bats.

Medhi explained that thirty five Thai caves now serve as roosts for the Thai population of 5,000 Kitti's hog-nosed bats and that the population has been fairly stable during the last few years. He also mentioned that a new population of 1,500 Kitti's hog-nosed bats has just been discovered in neighboring Myanmar (Burma).

"Living fossil" Caught On Video for First Time

BY FRANK STEPHENSON

The first images of a live specimen of a small, furry animal once believed to have gone extinct more than 11 million years ago have been captured during a Southeast Asian expedition led by a retired Florida State University researcher. The remarkable video and photos shot by David Redfield, a professor emeritus of FSU's science education faculty, and Thai wildlife biologist Uthai Treesucon are being hailed as historic images documenting a true "living fossil," the Laotian rock rat.

The Laotian rock rat is so called for its only known habitat - limestone outcroppings in Central Laos - and the appearance of the animal's head and face, which sport long whiskers and beady eyes like those of a rat. Known as kha-nyou (pronounced "ga-noo") in Lao villages near its habitat, the animal was first described scientifically in the April 2005 issue of the journal *Systematics and Biodiversity*.

Identified as a member of an entirely new family of mammals, the rock rat made news around the world. It gained international attention again on March 10 of this year when scientists published a paper in Science magazine re-identifying the animal as a "living fossil" whose last remaining relatives went extinct 11 million years ago.

For more information, visit: www.fsu.com/pages/2006/06/13/LaotianRockRat.html



Bat Facts

Kitti's Hog-nosed Bat
(*Craseonycteris
thonglongyai*)

Known commonly as the bumblebee bat thanks to its status as the world's smallest species of bat. At 30-40 mm in length and weighing approximately 2 grams (about the weight of a dime), it is the only known species in its genus and is found in a tiny region of western Thailand, in the Sai Yok National Park, Kanchanaburi Province. Recently, it has also been discovered in adjacent Myanmar.

Source: Wikipedia



The "living fossil" Laotian Rock Rat (kna-nyou) was captured and photographed by David Redfield and then released back into its habitat

**FBC WILL HOST A BOOTH
AT THESE SPECIAL EVENTS
THROUGHOUT
FLORIDA**



BLACK BEAR FESTIVAL

Oct. 1, 9 AM—4 pm
Umatilla

floridablackbearfest.org



**PANHANDLE BIRDING & WILD-
FLOWER FESTIVAL**

Oct. 6-9

info@birdfestival.info



DING DARLING DAYS

October 8-14

Sanibel Island

www.dingdarlingdays.com



**Lubee Bat
CONSERVANCY**

2006 BAT FESTIVAL

October 28th, 12:30-3:30 pm

1309 NW 192nd Ave.

Gainesville FL



**NATURE COAST BIRDING &
WILDLIFE FESTIVAL**

Nov. 3—6, Cedar Key

Contact Judy Johnson

352-543-0099

BONNETED BAT SURVEY CONTINUES

BY CYNDI MARKS

Much of our summer has been spent in the field as we continue our study of the range and abundance of the Florida bonneted bat (*Eumops floridanus*). So far, George and I have surveyed areas in South Miami, Punta Gorda, Ft. Lauderdale, Homestead, and Ft. Myers. Susan Trokey and Victor Young, our co-workers for the survey, assisted at sites on the West Coast. The surveys are conducted using bat detectors which pickup the echolocation calls of bats flying overhead and record them as computer files for later analysis. Sonograms constructed from the data are then used to identify the species of bats recorded. Some nights a stationary survey is conducted at a location conducive to bat foraging. Other nights a roving survey is conducted using vehicles to cover a larger geographic area. Some nights we use both strategies. So far we have only recorded the Florida bonneted bat in a few locations. We recorded it in Coral Gables over a golf course where we had heard it in the past. It was great to know that it is still there! In North Fort Myers, the only known colony is still doing well and growing. We made recordings at and near the roost site to determine which direction they are headed when they leave the roost.

The most exciting information from our survey, so far, is that we recorded them at the Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area in Punta Gorda. The first time this species was found on the west coast of Florida was in 1979 when a small colony was discovered at Babcock-Webb during the construction of I-75. During subsequent survey work in the area, this species had not been found. So, we were really excited to record their echolocation calls confirming their presence seventeen years later!

One of the benefits of this study is that we are learning a lot about the abundance of other Florida bat species as well. It has been rewarding to find the northern yellow bat present in most urban areas surveyed in south Florida. Over the next few months we will be surveying in places such as Fakahatchee Strand, Big Cypress, and the Ten Thousand Islands. Perhaps we will find the Florida bonneted bat to be present in these areas as well.

We have had a lot of help finding good survey sites and gaining access to locations that are usually closed at night. In particular, we would like to thank Sonya Thompson with the Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department, Mike Hoke with the Broward County Parks and Recreation Division, Dr. Chriss Miller of the Miami Metro Zoo, Mike Kemmerer and Brian Schofield of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at the Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area, and Dave and Sylvia Phillips.



FWC biologist Brian Schofield & volunteer Victor Young assisted with the survey by recording bat calls at the Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area.

Bat Facts

Florida Bonneted Bat
(*Eumops floridanus*)

This is Florida's largest bat. Its fur ranges in color from dark gray to brownish-gray. As with other bats in the family *Molossidae*, its tail extends well beyond a short tail membrane. It has large broad ears that slant forward over the eyes from which it gets the common name of "bonneted bat." It roosts in cliff crevices, tree cavities and buildings. In 2003, a small colony was found roosting in a bat house in Fort Myers. Food preferences: Insectivorous; known to feed on beetles, flies and true bugs. Florida status: Rare. Classified as Endangered by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.



MEMBERSHIP

Since its beginnings in 1990, through the acquisition of 501(c)(3) status in 1994, to the present day, our focus has been the conservation of one of the state's most unique and vital natural resources: native bats. Rather than serving this mission in a single static location, volunteers are needed from the panhandle to the keys, and everywhere in between. Educators, researchers, rescuers, rehabilitators, and advocates all over the state must be actively involved in the all-volunteer organization in order to reach our goals.

Member support helps fund these critical activities. From rescue and rehabilitation to education, advocacy, and research, every dollar donated directly impacts Florida's bats.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CONTINUING MEMBERS:

Bat Conservationist and Corporate Member: Friends of Bats

Bat Patrons: Nita Claytor, Ann Walker, Lynn Huber, Ron and Tish Thomas

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George and Lupe Fenner



Join us and help protect these fascinating, beneficial mammals!

Please consider helping Florida's bats by becoming a member. We are a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization working hard to protect bats by means of public education, conservation projects, rescue, rehabilitation, and research.

- New*
 Regular Member \$15
 Bat Friend \$30
 Bat Supporter \$50
 Renewing
 Bat Patron \$100
 Bat Conservationist \$250 or more

Name: _____ Email: _____

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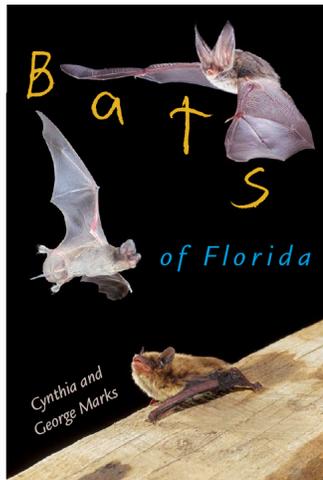
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Make checks payable to: Florida Bat Conservancy, P.O. Box 516, Bay Pines, FL 33744



HELPING FLORIDA'S BATS

Florida Bat Conservancy
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Bay Pines FL 33744



ORDER YOUR COPY OF *BATS OF FLORIDA* FROM US!

A limited number of copies has been reserved for FBC Members and friends at a 20% discount. They are available by mail and will also be for sale during our upcoming special community events throughout the state. Simply complete this form and return to the address above.

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