

## Announcements



### **October 24**

Bat Week starts today. Have you ever heard someone say, “I’m blind as a bat”? The truth is that all bats can see. In fact, some bats have vision that’s three times better than humans!

### **October 25**

Here is another Bat Fact.

Zoom! Bats are fast, flying 60 miles per hour. Mexican free-tailed bats can even reach speeds up to 100 mph – that’s more than 40% faster than a cheetah!

### **October 26**

Here is today’s Bat Fact.

Bats come in all sizes: The smallest bat, called a Bumblebee Bat, lives in Thailand and has a wingspan of only six inches. The Giant Golden-crowned Flying Fox is a bat that lives in the Philippines and can grow to have a wingspan of more than five feet!

### **October 27**

Another bat fact

By eating up to 1,200 mosquitos an hour, bats help keep pest populations in check and can help reduce the risk of mosquito-borne illnesses while also keeping crop-damaging insects from destroying our fruit and vegetables.

Economists estimate that without bats controlling insect populations like mosquitos, cocoa bean yields would decrease by 30%. That means thirty percent less chocolate for us to eat!

### **October 30**

Bats disperse seeds far and wide!

- Do you enjoy dates, figs, bananas, and cashews? Bats help these fruits grow and are often called the “farmers of the tropics.”
- Fruit bats will travel long distances and defecate while they fly, thereby dispersing the fruit’s seeds along their way. As those seeds sprout, the plants that grow provide shelter that allows smaller, more fragile plants to take root beside them.
- Seeds dropped by bats can account for up to 95% of the first new growth in these areas.

### **October 31**

The last bat fact of bat week 2023

There are more than 1,450 species of bats worldwide, accounting for about 20% of all mammal species. Bats are the second largest group of mammals in the world!

Nearly a quarter of bat species worldwide are considered endangered or vulnerable because of disruption of forests, over-harvesting of trees they call home, climate change, and disease. A fungus is causing a disease called “white-nose syndrome” that has significantly decreased many North American bat populations.

Putting up bat boxes for roosting is one way to help.