

Jasey's ~~Bird~~ Bat House



Hi Neighbors, as most of you know, my family and I spent the summer in Costa Rica. While we were there, we went to a fabulous place called the Bat Jungle where we learned about how important bats are to the ecosystem. So I wanted to share some of what I learned with all of you.

Fun Bat Facts

1. Bats are the only flying mammals.
2. Bats wings are very similar to your hand.
3. They have opposable thumbs.
4. Bats are closely related to primates.
5. 1,300 different species in the world.
6. A quarter of all the mammals in the world are bats.
7. If you lined up all the mammals in the world every 4th animal in the line would be a bat.
8. The biggest bat in the world, the Malayan Flying Fox, weighs 2 pounds and has a wingspan of 6 feet!
9. The smallest bat in the world, the Bumblebee bat, only weighs the same amount as one dime.
10. Insect-eating bats eat their body weight every night: 2,000 to 6,000 insects.
11. Some bats have been detected flying up to 50 miles an hour - almost as fast as you drive on the highway.
12. Some bats can live up to 30 years!
13. When a baby bat is born it weights 25% of the weight of an adult bat. If a human baby was that size when it was born it would be the size of a toddler.
14. If you live in Great Britain and you disturbed a bat you would be a criminal and have to pay a fine.



Watercolor by Jasey

Threats to Bats

White Nose Syndrome:

White Nose Syndrome is a fungus that grows on the bat's nose, wings and tail. It causes them to wake up from hibernation to itch every 3-4 days instead of the normal 10-20 days. The extra waking uses up more body fat and therefore they starve before spring comes and they can find food. It lives in caves in the eastern half of the United States and parts of Canada.

Wind Turbines:

Wind Turbines kill bats in two ways. First, tree bats think the turbines are trees and they get hit by the blades. A tiny bat being hit by a blade as long as two train cars has no chance of surviving. And two, the moving blades cause changes in air pressure causing bats' lungs to explode.

Global Warming / Habitat Destruction:

These are negatively affecting bats, like almost every other critter on the planet.



Photo credit: nature.org