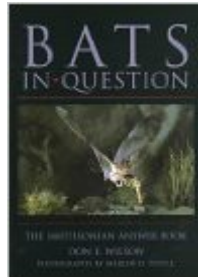


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# Bats In Question: The Smithsonian Answer Book



## Synopsis

Long the subject of myth and superstition, bats have been among the most misunderstood of mammals due to their nocturnal habits, capacity for flight, and strange appearance. Seeking to dispel the myths associated with these remarkable creatures and arguing for their key role in a balanced ecosystem, *Bats in Question* covers all aspects of bat biology in a practical question-and-answer format. Describing where bats live, how they use echolocation to navigate, and even why they hang upside down, the book also gives the conservation status of all 925 bat species. Don E. Wilson traces the evolution of bats and shows their remarkable diversity by describing each of the major groups in terms of their different body structures and habitats. He sheds light on bats' complex social systems, extraordinary variation in size, and food preferences that encompass plants, insects, and mammals. The book also explores cultural attitudes about bats—telling how, until recently, bats had been relegated to the world of vampires and how they have emerged to take their place in public awareness as important and fascinating members of our ecosystems. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Smithsonian Books (August 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1560987383

ISBN-13: 978-1560987383

Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 7.3 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,424,095 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #97 in [Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Field Guides > Mammals](#) #693 in [Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Endangered Species](#) #2376 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Mammals](#)

## Customer Reviews

This is the most informative bat book that I've picked up so far. Lots of great information if you love bats and want to know more about them, or fear bats and are interested in learning to love them. Lots of great photos, but not a picture book at all. Probably too wordy for little kids, but great for adults.

Why don't baby bats fall off mom bats in flight? Hmmm? The answer to this and all of your other curious musings about the most successful and least understood of the mammals are presented in this latest volume of a Smithsonian series. For children or adults, with excellent close-up photos, this one is sure to foster a growing interest in our flying relatives. About 1/4 of mammal species have winged fingers, big ears and knees turned sideways to facilitate dangling from ceilings, and that doesn't include your weird Uncle Mort! Bats occur on every continent except Antarctica, and in eco-niches as diverse as blood sucking, fruit chewing, fish nipping and insect consumption. Some are excellent mousers. Several types may live for thirty years. As mentioned in my review of *THE FORGOTTEN POLLINATORS* (Stephen L. Buchmann & Gary Paul Nabhan, Shearwater Books, 1996), the bats include species critical to reproduction for many types of plant, and (along with other pollinator species) many are in steep decline. Here's one little piece of brain candy from this high quality sampler: Baby bats' milk teeth (they have two sequential sets like most other mammals) are hooked and pointy. They lock on to mom's nipple like a Voskod docked to Mir. Look Ma! No hands!

Here is a book that can keep the reader interested and help answer any questions about bats. The text is easy to read and the photos spectacular! It is a soft-cover book that's just the right size to tuck along when you want to go out of the house with it.

Had the old plastic library cover but it was pretty easy to remove from the paper cover of the book. The tape wasn't super sticky. Once I removed the plastic, it was perfect.

Great book for any child, teen, or adult interested in bats. My 11-year-old son has read it almost cover to cover!

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