

ARIZONA BATS NEED YOUR HELP!



BATS MAY BE ROOSTING

in this area. Bats use bridges, old buildings, snags, tree bark, caves and abandoned mines as roosts. These temperature controlled places are essential to bats for raising young, resting, and hibernating. Bats spend over half their time roosting.



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- ◆ Bats are protected by state and federal laws. Twenty-eight species of bats are found in Arizona, the second highest number of bat species in the United States.
- ◆ One large bat colony can eat up to 500,000 pounds of insects and invertebrates every night.
- ◆ Bats are the only mammal capable of true flight. Bats are not blind, do not become tangled in human hair, and seldom pass disease to other animals or humans.
- ◆ Bat populations are rapidly declining, mostly due to human disturbance at roosts.
- ◆ Bats are vulnerable to extinction. For their size, they are the slowest reproducing mammals on earth.

How you can help protect bats:

◆ Do not disturb - bats are up all night!

Bats normally sleep through the day and are active at night. Stay as far as possible from the bats and keep noise, lights, and movement to a minimum. Do not throw objects into sinkholes, caves or mine shafts. Disturbance can cause bats to abandon their roost.

◆ Keep your distance - bats get nervous!

Use binoculars to observe bats. If you must approach or pass close by them, do so in small, quiet groups with minimal light. Speak in a low voice. Do not whisper. Whispering is more disturbing to bats.

◆ Keep quiet - don't wake the pups!

May through July is when young bat pups are born. Disturbance at this vulnerable time may cause pups to lose their grip and fall to the floor, causing injury or death.

◆ Let bats hibernate - in order to survive the winter!

During winter, when food is scarce, bats will be in a deep sleep, called hibernation. Human disturbance can cause early arousal from hibernation and threaten the bats ability to survive through the winter.