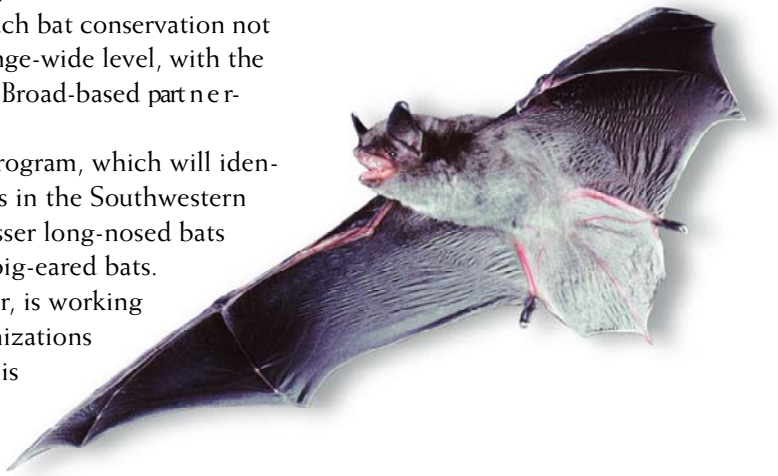
BAT CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

www.batcon.org

Annual Report 2007 - 2008

Dear BCI members and friends,

Bat Conservation International expanded the depth and strategic focus of its science-based conservation efforts this past year. We hired three new scientists to lead multiyear projects that approach bat conservation not on a site-by-site basis, but at the species- or range-wide level, with the clear goal of long-term stability of critical populations. Broad-based partnerships are key to our success with these initiatives.



Jason Corbett leads our Southwest Subterranean Program, which will identify and manage critical mine and cave habitats for bats in the Southwestern United States. Targeted species include endangered lesser long-nosed bats and state-listed California leaf-nosed and Townsend's big-eared bats.

Michael Baker, our new Indiana Myotis Coordinator, is working closely with federal and state agencies and other organizations in recovery efforts for this long-endangered species. His emphasis is on restoring and protecting vital hibernation caves and mines.

Christa Weise is now guiding BCI's work on behalf of border-crossing bats in northern Mexico. Comfortable in Spanish, Christa is a specialist in Latin American Bats.

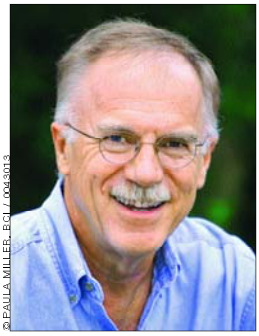
Our Artificial Roosts Coordinator, Mylea Bayless, is coordinating the Southeastern Rare Bats Program, working with partners to develop a comprehensive recovery program for Rafinesque's big-eared bats and southeastern myotis.

With Michael and Christa, BCI now has five Ph.D.-level bat biologists on staff, each with with an exceptionally wide range of experience in bat ecology and conservation.

These new programs will be guided by firm scientific data that document the status of targeted species and their most critical conservation needs. Within this landscape approach, the most important foraging, roosting and hibernation habitats will be evaluated. Priorities will be established based on overall requirements for the species' long-term viability. Working with partners, we will monitor our results and respond as necessary to changes.

All aspects of BCI's conservation efforts and experience will be applied to these programs: from public and decision-maker education and outreach to such direct actions as gating mines and establishing collaborations to conserve critical habitat. We are building solid foundations on which to build the future of bat conservation.

Merlin D. Tuttle
Founder and
Executive Director



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Bat Conservation International

Cover photo: This Rafinesque's big-eared bat roosts in an abandoned restaurant in Tennessee. BCI's Artificial Roosts Program is launching a major effort to conserve this and other rare bats in the southeastern United States *(page 4)*.

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Artificial Roosts

Broadening our reach

Education efforts by Bat Conservation International and its partners and friends have transformed public attitudes about bats in many parts of the world. In years past, bats discovered roosting in buildings were often simply exterminated. Things are very different today, says Artificial Roosts Coordinator Mylea Bayless.

In Texas and along the rest of the U.S. Gulf Coast, she said, "education has been so successful that most people understand that they need to protect their bats. Now [local officials] often call us when they're planning downtown renovations and have colonies of bats in old buildings that are going to be removed or remodeled." BCI provides advice for safely and permanently excluding the bats.

That, however, raises a new problem: where will those displaced bats – sometimes tens of thousands of them – go when they lose their homes? BCI's Artificial Roosts Program worked with University of Texas architects to design a "community bat house" for use when large colonies are excluded from buildings. The experimental bat house, 10 feet (3 meters) square and mounted on utility poles, contains hundreds of roosting chambers that can house up to 30,000 bats. It should prove especially useful for Mexican free-tailed bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis*), which form huge colonies and often set up housekeeping in buildings.

Extra-large bat houses for Mexican freetails have been tried in several places, with an outstanding example at the University of Florida. Bayless is working with partners to build and install the first of BCI's new community bat houses at the Langley-Bell 4-H Center in Escambia County, Florida, during 2008. Another is planned in Palestine, Texas. Construction plans for BCI's community bat house will be available free at our website, *www.batcon.org*.

The website, meanwhile, remains the premier source for infor-

(*Above*) Longtime BCI partner Frank Bibin installs a crevice module in a community bat house that's being remodeled at Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park in Tallahassee, Florida.
(*Right*) Today's community bat houses are far superior to those designed nearly a century ago by Charles Campbell. This one was built in 1918 at Comfort, Texas, by Albert Steves, whose great grandson is a BCI trustee.

Rafinesque's big-eared bats

Rare Bats of

Rafinesque's big-eared bats (*Corynorhinus rafinesquii*) and southeastern myotis (*myotis austroriparius*) range over much of the southeastern United States. Both have markedly declined recently and are considered threatened or endangered by every state they inhabit. BCI is launching an exciting new initiative – a tightly focused multiyear effort – to conserve these increasingly rare bats.

The effort is headed by Mylea Bayless, whose Artificial Roosts Program spent much of the past seven years developing "tower roosts" to supplement the increasingly scarce hollow trees these bats prefer for roosting. That project met a major milestone this past year by documenting for the first time that Rafinesque's big-eared bat maternity colonies gave birth in two towers in Mississippi and Texas.

BCI and the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network are coordinating a

mation about traditional bat houses. Online guides offer detailed information and advice on buying, building, installing and maintaining your bat house.

Bayless, working with BCI Founder Merlin Tuttle, also designed and built prototypes of four new bat-house designs for use in the Union of the Comoros, an island nation in the Indian Ocean. As the snags and hollow trees – the island bats' traditional roosts – disappeared over the years, the bats were forced to relocate into homes and other buildings. Now many older buildings are being replaced, leaving bats homeless.

©COURTESY OF ROBERT BALL

First graders and their teacher at the Sharon School in Ola, Georgia, display the bat houses they built at a workshop conducted by BCI partner Robert Ball and his company, Habitat for Bats.

With support from the Artificial Roost Program and BCI's Global Grassroots Conservation Fund, our partners are building and installing six examples of each design around the islands. The designs, which vary by crevice width, shape and entrance, will be monitored to identify which version the bats prefer. Then bat houses will be installed at schools, homes and community buildings and used as the centerpiece of a concentrated bat-education campaign.

The Artificial Roosts Program is also working with federal, state and private partners across North America to stress the importance of bridges and culverts as vital alternative bat roosts – and often profitable tourist attractions, as well.

Bayless, for instance, described BCI's long experience with bats and bridges for state transportation officials from across the country at the 2007 International Conference on Ecology and Transportation in Little Rock, Arkansas. She's also working with state and local officials to develop safe, educational bat-viewing opportunities at two Texas bridges with sizeable bat colonies and growing public attention: the Waugh Drive Bridge in Houston and the McNeil Bridge at Round Rock.

THE SOUTHEAST

team of experts to help develop a comprehensive conservation strategy for these two species.This critical effort is supported by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and many other generous donors.

Bayless has laid the foundation by developing key partnerships with individuals and agencies throughout the region. BCI is helping partners conduct critical research by providing dataloggers to monitor conditions inside natural roost trees used by Rafinesque's big-eared bats and southeastern myotis in North Carolina, Mississippi and Louisiana.

The data will help identify the most suitable natural roost trees for conservation and should also help improve artificial-roost designs for these species.

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White-nose Syndrome

Facing a brutal challenge


AL HICKS, NY DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Emaciated bat carcasses literally piled up in the snow outside hibernation caves in the northeastern United States last winter, imposing an almost desperate urgency on scientific efforts to solve the mystery of White-nose Syndrome – perhaps the worst threat ever faced by North American bats.

Tens of thousands of bats died of this unexplained malady in New York, Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut, with mortality rates exceeding 90 percent reported at some hibernation caves. Whole species are at risk, and the danger of WNS spreading to other regions is unclear. The little brown myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*) is hardest hit by the die-offs. The endangered Indiana myotis (*M. sodalis*) is among at least four other affected species.

Bat Conservation International responded quickly, working with colleagues and partners to raise funds to finance research and to establish priorities to guide the search for causes and solutions.

BCI Founder Merlin Tuttle helped organize an emergency meeting of scientists and government officials at Albany, New York, to review available data, discuss hypotheses and agree on top-priority directions for research. Other crucial organizers of the Science Strategy Session included Boston University, Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) and the U.S. Geological Survey. The effort was conducted in close collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

BCI led fundraising efforts, generously supported by the Disney Rapid Response Fund, the National Speleological Society, Anton Schindler (in memory of his wife, Valerie), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Geological Survey. Logistical support was provided by NYDEC and USFWS.

The BCI White-nose Syndrome Emergency Response Fund is awarding seed grants to allow scientists to launch WNS research projects while larger grant applications are being considered. The proposed research must be directly relevant to identifying the cause or causes of White-nose Syndrome, and applications will be reviewed by scientists outside BCI.

BCI quickly awarded two WNS grants. One is helping Missouri State University study possible metabolic abnormalities in affected bats, while Cornell and Boston Universities are jointly studying bat immune responses during hibernation.

Donations to this program are being accepted at:
www.batcon.org/whitenose.

Donors

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BCI had a lead role in organizing an emergency meeting of scientists and government officials to set priorities for WNS research.

Caves, Mines & Indiana Myotis

Indiana myotis once migrated by the millions across eastern North America to spend winters hibernating in a few caves, mostly in Kentucky and Indiana. Those great migrations are long gone. *Myotis sodalis* was declared endangered in 1967. And still its numbers waned. Just 380,000 Indiana myotis survived in 2001.

Research led by BCI identified a key factor in the species' decline: Indiana myotis require a narrow range of stable temperatures in order to build large populations in hibernation caves – and tourism and past saltpeter extraction have often altered airflow and temperatures. BCI led an ongoing search for altered caves that previously held large hibernating populations of Indiana myotis and worked to restore optimal conditions.

These efforts were instrumental in halting the species' decline. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated the 2007 population at more than 465,000. But the Indiana myotis is far from secure, especially since it is among species hit by White-nose Syndrome.

BCI, supported by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Beneficia Foundation, is expanding its role as a guiding force in wide-ranging collaborations to implement the federal recovery plan. Our expanded Indiana Myotis Conservation Program, under Coordinator Michael Baker, will focus on identification, restoration, protection and long-term monitoring of existing and potential hibernation sites. Most importantly, it will expand its efforts throughout the species' range. The program will integrate its work with White-nose Syndrome research.

A welder works on a cupola gate Saltpetre Cave, one of four bat-friendly gates installed at this important Kentucky site.

This past year, BCI worked with partners to improve airflow at Saltpetre Cave and continue removing a mountain of trash at Saltpeter Pit, two Kentucky caves with significant past populations of Indiana myotis. Additional temperature monitors and infrared cameras were installed to track conditions and monitor bat behavior at Indiana's Wyandotte Cave, with the largest remaining hibernation population of Indiana myotis. BCI and its partners also worked at Indiana myotis caves in New York and Missouri and assessed 40 sites in Kentucky and six in Indiana for current or past use, identifying at least one previously unknown hibernating colony of 2,000 bats.

Endangered gray myotis crowd together in Hubbards Cave in Tennessee.

The Caves and Mines Program teamed with several Tennessee partners to replace an aging chain-link fence with a more secure rigid fence around the entrance to Bellamy Cave, a vital year-round roost for more than 100,000 endangered gray myotis (*Myotis grisescens*). The Nature Conservancy of Tennessee recently purchased the cave, with BCI assistance, and turned it over to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency for management.

In Michigan, BCI and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service collaborated to reopen and gate the Bumble Bee Mine to provide critical new habitat for little brown myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*). With Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Wisconsin Industrial Sands, we are helping to build a bat-friendly gate at the Bay City Mine, a hibernation site for tens of thousands of little browns in Wisconsin.

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Bracken Bat Cave & Nature Reserve

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Oak savannas like those that drew settlers to the Texas Hill Country a century and a half ago are returning to BCI's Bracken Bat Cave & Nature Reserve. Thickets of Ashe juniper, which had overgrown the land and pilfered the groundwater, are being thinned and native vegetation is being reseeded.

Decades of overgrazing and fire suppression let the junipers spread into what once were oak-studded savannas. Clearing them is slow, arduous work. During the past three years, excess Ashe junipers have been removed from 187 flatland acres. Juniper thickets are being preserved in their historic locations along rocky ridges and ravines. During 2007-08, we thinned about 26 acres with tractor-mounted tree shears and cleared another 26 (especially rugged) acres by hand, often assisted by volunteers.

The cave and 700-acre reserve, increasingly besieged by urban development from nearby San Antonio, is the summer home for some 20 million Mexican free-tailed bats – the largest community of mammals in the world. Our dream for this incredible resource is to create a unique education center that highlights not only the cave bats, but also the ruggedly beautiful Hill Country and the wildlife it supports.

Boy Scouts from Troop 515 in San Antonio, Texas, and other volunteers clear brush at the Bracken Bat Cave & Nature Reserve.

A bumper crop of wildflowers splashed color around the Nature Reserve where junipers were thinned.

Working with key partners, we developed a comprehensive habitat-restoration plan, with an initial emphasis on a core area of 343 acres that are most used by young bats learning to fly and also offer the greatest potential as habitat for other wildlife.

Volunteers completed key-resource surveys on 123 acres last year, bringing to 432 the total number of acres so far examined for critical features. Three archaeological sites, four small caves, a variety of 30- to 40-inch-diameter trees and a turkey vulture nest were identified. Bird surveys documented 43 species, including nine breeding pairs of federally endangered golden-cheeked warblers.

With the continuing support of our Charter Land Stewards' Adopt-An-Acre Project and matching grants from federal, state and private agencies, we are making steady progress in habitat restoration. More than 135 acres have been seeded, by machine or by hand, with a mix of seven grasses and 19 other plants, all Hill Country natives. The results, after spring rains, were dramatic. Some grasses grew as much as four feet in their first year, and the wildflower displays were spectacular.

New Charter Land Stewards

Malcolm Beck, Barbara and Bob Hayden, Anne S. Houser, Dr. Lee W. Lenz, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart McMillen, Heidi Nitze, Willliam O'Leary, Melissa and Ward Powell, Mr. and Mrs. James E. Roberts, Judith Schultz, Wes Smith, K. Rene Smith Staff and George M. Staff, Harry Stephens, Kitty Swoboda and Kurt Menking, Kelly Weaver

Bats & Wind Energy

As wind-energy turbines spread across the landscape at a record pace, the BCI-led Bats and Wind Energy Cooperative (BWEC) is launching a critical test of the best candidate known to date for reducing bat fatalities at these renewable-energy sites: shutting down the turbines when the wind slows.

An additional 3,230 wind turbines were installed across the United States during 2007, more than twice as many as in 2006, reports the U.S. Department of Energy. The 5,329 megawatts added last year brought the national total to 16,094 megawatts – a 46 percent increase. If that growth continues without action to reduce bat fatalities, the annual death toll on North American bats, already in the tens of thousands, could increase dramatically.

Since BWEC began in 2003, scientists led by Coordinator Ed Arnett of BCI have documented alarming rates of bat-fatalities at most wind facilities that have been studied. Years of systematic research found that bat kills peak in late summer and fall, when many bat species are migrating, and that most bats are killed on nights when wind speeds dip below about 13.5 miles per hour (6 meters per second). The research, described in a 2008 paper (Arnett, et al.) in the *Journal of Wildlife Management*, concludes that focusing mitigation efforts on "these high-risk periods could reduce bat fatality substantially."

BWEC researchers this summer are testing that concept at the Casselman Wind Power Project in Pennsylvania with the cooperation of owner Iberdrola Renewables. Scientists recently completed three years of acoustic-monitoring studies at the site (with a final report due in Fall 2008). Ongoing post-construction monitoring will include, for the first time in the U.S., a study of the impact of shutting down wind turbines during migration periods on nights when winds are low. Bat fatalities at turbines operating on slow-wind nights will be compared to those at turbines that shut down at wind speeds below about 14 miles per hour. The results could be crucial in reducing the bat kills now tied to wind energy.

In January, 48 key scientists, wind-industry professionals and government representatives gathered in Austin, Texas, for the second BWEC Technical Experts Workshop. Participants from Canada, Europe and the United States shared the latest research results and discussed top priorities and next steps for the Cooperative.

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Participants paint wildlife escape structures at a workshop in Arizona.

Water for Wildlife

Natural water sources are disappearing across much of the American West in the face of urban and agricultural development, as well as drought and climate change. Thirsty bats and other wildlife are increasingly forced to seek out artificial water supplies designed for livestock. Many of these livestock tanks, however, are inaccessible or so dangerous that bats, birds and other animals often drown in their desperate search for a drink.

BCI's Water for Wildlife project is working with a host of partners to ensure that safe, reliable water is available in critical habitats throughout the region.

An important part of wildlife-friendly water is the use of escape structures in water tanks so downed animals can escape. Project Coordinator Dan Taylor and the Nevada Division of Wildlife are working with others to build and place more than 1,000 wildlife-escape structures in tanks across northern Nevada.

In New Mxico, Taylor helped the Department of Defense install 11 bat-friendly wildlife water developments on the White Sands Missile Range and worked with the Quivira Coalition to build ramps at 20 livestock tanks on the Rowe Mesa Ranch.

With various partners, Taylor conducted a Water for Wildlife workshop in Carrizozo, New Mexico, and described critical aspects of safe water sources to wildlife managers, ranchers and conservationists from New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado.

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Southwest Subterranean

Thousands of derelict old mines are scattered across the American Southwest, abandoned during the past century and a half when the ore played out or the market collapsed. Bats, seeking new sanctuaries as natural roosts dwindled, moved into many of those old mines, which are now critical homes for various species.

BCI's new Southwest Subterranean Program approaches bat conservation at a broader geographical scale than in the past by identifying and protecting specific mines and caves that are most critical for healthy bat populations throughout the region.

We are working with local and regional partners to conserve key mine and cave habitats used by a strikingly diverse collection of bats: endangered lesser long-nosed bats (*Leptonycteris yerbabuenae*) are nectar-feeders and key pollinators of agaves and cacti; California leaf-nosed bats (*Macrotus californicus*) are gleaners that pluck grasshoppers and other insects off foliage; while Townsend's big-eared bats (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) forage on flying insects such as moths.

Since abandoned mines are often hazardous to the public, one major conservation challenge is to keep people out while providing open access to the bats. BCI, in collaboration with a variety of public and private partners, is installing bat-friendly gates at old mines in Arizona and California.

Arizona's Buckeye Mine, an important winter roost used by more than 600 California leaf-nosed bats, was protected with a bat gate in March 2008. The Welton Hills Mine in Arizona, home to 62 California leaf-nosed bats, will be gated in the fall. And plans are being developed with state and federal partners to replace inadequate gates on two entrances to Arizona's State of Texas Mine, a seasonal roost for 30,000 endangered lesser long-nosed bats.

Frequent BCI partner Rio Tinto Minerals (part of the Death Valley Mine Closure Alliance) completed two bat-friendly gates at the Corkscrew Mine in California's Death Valley, a potential roost for Townsend's big-eared bats. The Riverview, Blue Cloud and Blackwater mines in Southern California, all important Townsend's roosts, were also gated.

BCI staff and partners completed rapid assessments of 104 caves and mines in Arizona and California, making initial checks to determine current, past or potential bat use and to establish priorities for future action. Among immediate results, a colony of some 600 lesser long-nosed bats was discovered in Papago Springs Cave in Arizona, where a seasonal closure is being recommended to limit disturbances.

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Arizona State Mine Inspector's Office
Death Valley Mine Closure Alliance
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Wildlife Habitat Council

(*Above*) Program coordinator Jason Corbett examines an abandoned mine in Arizona for evidence of use by bats. (*Right*) Courtney Oster and Mike Rauschkolb of Rio Tinto Minerals discuss closure methods for a mine shaft in Death Valley.

Philippines

In the two years since Norma Monfort sought BCI's help in protecting her family's bat cave on Samal Island in the Philippines, progress has been exceptional. And the work begun at Monfort Bat Cave, home to the world's largest-known colony of Geoffroy's rousette fruit bats (*Rousettus amplexicaudatus*), is spreading active bat-conservation efforts around the nation.

Philippine Bat Conservation, a nonprofit Monfort founded to protect bats and their habitats, is thriving and establishing partnerships around the region. The First Annual Philippine Bat Festival drew more than 400 participants to the cave and Monfort Conservation Park. With the theme "Happy Bats, Healthy Environment," the festival highlighted bats' critical roles in the environment.

Dave Waldien, BCI Co-Director of Programs, and Cave Resources Coordinator Jim Kennedy visited the island in January 2008. They and Filipino colleagues completed rapid assessments of 11 more caves and, acting on tips from local residents, located entrances to 32 potential bat caves. Two caves were identified as high-priority sites that will receive urgent conservation attention.

BCI's Jim Kennedy leads a Philippine workshop.

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Philippine Bat Conservation conducted a bat-education workshop for teachers from areas with pressing bat-conservation needs. They learned the importance and benefits of bats and were trained to share their new knowledge with their students and communities.

Waldien and Kennedy, with help from Philippine bat experts Nina Ingle and Rai Gomez, led a Bat Research and Methods Workshop and a Cave Assessment Workshop for biologists, students, conservationists and others from throughout the Philippines.

Philippine Bat Conservation, meanwhile, signed formal agreements with Holy Cross of Davao College and the University of the Philippines-Mindanao to collaborate on bat education, conservation and research.

Borderlands

Borderlands leaders Arnulfo Moreno (*left*) and Christa Weise discuss protection for Cueva la Boca in Mexico.

The Borderlands Program is emphasizing conservation efforts at six high-priority roost sites in northeastern Mexico. Working with student volunteers, we are improving bats' access to the sites by managing vegetation and protecting against human disturbances. BCI teams educate surrounding communities about the benefits of these bats and provide advice on sustainable guano-mining practices and opportunities for ecotourism. Long-term monitoring strategies are being developed.

Cueva La Boca in Nuevo León, among Mexico's most important roosts for Mexican free-tailed bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis*), was heavily disturbed and vandalized. Now partner Pronatura Noreste has erected a fence around the cave entrance with funding from BCI Trustee Eugenio Clariond Reyes and partner Virgilio Garza, and Amigos de la Naturaleza, a Tecnológico de Monterrey student group working with Professor Nelly Correa, is conducting community-education programs. The fence was forced open in December, however, so a sturdier replacement is being developed.

El Infierno Cave houses one of the country's largest maternity colonies of endangered Mexican long-nosed bats (*Leptonycteris nivalis*), with about 20,000 individuals. After clearing overgrown vegetation at the cave entrance, BCI is working with residents to protect the cave and with Cumbres de Monterrey National Park to develop its educational possibilities.

Borderlands teams also visited 32 possible bat roosts and found 22 with evidence of current or past bat use. Two could become important regional roosts and will be examined in more detail to decide what conservation actions might be required.

Borderlands' Arnulfo Moreno conducted a seminar to help 585 Nuevo León teachers add bat conservation to their lessons. He and Jesus Franco of Texas Parks and Wildlife trained 20 leaders of a Nuevo León summer-camp program to help children appreciate bat values. Camp leaders are expected to mentor about 200 children from the Monterrey area each summer. Moreno explained the fundamentals of bat conservation to 120 students in Ciudad Victoria and taught 70 guides and students at the Desert Museum in Saltillo, Coahuila, about bat ecology and conservation.

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Sky Islands Alliance

Outreach & Education

Spreading the word

When White-nose Syndrome hit the news, Bat Conservation International became an important stop for reporters seeking an overview of this ominous threat to bats and an explanation of why Americans should care. BCI Founder Merlin Tuttle explained the roles bats play in maintaining healthy environments and economies and the risk of WNS to the *New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Baltimore Sun, Associated Press*, CBS and NBC national news and many other media.

Tuttle and colleague Tom Kunz of Boston University, supported by chapters of the Audubon Society and the Nature Conservancy, also wrote an OpEd column describing wind-energy threats to bats in Central Texas. The column was published in the *Austin American-Statesman, San Antonio Express-News* and other newspapers in the area.

BCI Science Officer Barbara French was featured on *National Geographic News-On-Line* discussing the value of artificial habitats for bats. More than 70 radio stations of the Northwest Ag Information Network in the Pacific Northwest carried French's description of the crop pests eaten by bats. She was also interviewed for positive articles in publications ranging from the New Orleans *Times-Picayune* to *Wines & Vines* magazine. She discussed White-nose Syndrome with a number of newspapers and television stations. And she responded to negative publicity after rabid bats were found at various communities around the country, providing accurate information about public health issues and value of bats.

Meanwhile, French fielded more than 8,400 inquiries from the public. About a third of the emails, phone calls and faxes involved bats in buildings, while 20 percent were questions about public health issues. Among a number of presentations, French described the scientific facts on bats and rabies for four Texas State Public Health Districts, and explained how to deal with bats in buildings for operations staff at Austin's Seton Medical Center.

And she prepared a paper with the University of Texas Institute of Neurosciences on social communication of free-tailed bats that was published in the *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*.

BCI's Fall Educator, Kiki Corry, presented lively bat-education talks at 43 Central Texas elementary and middle schools, sharing the facts about bats and bat conservation with some 6,000 students. She also reached about 3,800 adults with lectures at six events, including a luncheon of the Texas Association for Environmental Education.

BCI's Visual Resources Collection of more than 70,000 photos of bats from around the world sold (and sometimes donated) images to more than 250 publications, scientists, students, bat fanciers and others. These distinctive photos graced the pages of textbooks; newspapers such as the *New York Times, Toronto Star* and *Al Dia*; magazines including *National Geographic, BBC Wildlife Magazine, Florida Wildlife, Conservationist, Massachusetts Audubon* and *Texas Highways*; and educational exhibits at zoos, parks and museums.

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Caraway Elementary School

(*Above*) BCI's Austin Educator Kiki Corry teaches second-graders about bats at Austin's Baranoff Elementary School.

(*Left*) Executive Director Merlin Tuttle prepares for an interview about White-nose Syndrome with a CBS News crew.

Scholarships

Bat Conservation International's Student Research Scholarships are supporting critical research by talented young scientists around the world. Our investment – $608,398 since the program began 18 years ago – not only produces new knowledge that is vital to global bat conservation, but also helps prepare top students for leadership roles in the future.

Through 2008, the program has awarded 256 scholarships of up to $5,000 each for conservation-related research in 55 countries. With matching funds from other sources, those awards helped generate a total of $4.3 million in research.

The U.S. Forest Service International Programs' continuing support of Bats in International Forestry scholarships in developing countries allows BCI to roughly double the number of awards. These awards especially benefit students from countries such as Cameroon and Tanzania, where bat scientists are rare.

BCI received 64 applications for the 2008-09 school year. Finalists were reviewed by outside scientists, and 19 awards were made for a total of $57,628. (*See list at right.*)

Last year's 20 BCI Scholars included: Phommexay Phansamai (bat diversity and activity differences between intact forests and rubber plantations in Thailand); Erin Baerwald (bat migration and mortality at wind farms in Canada); César Bracamonte (bat diversity and distribution in the cloud forests of Argentina); Lisa Evans (parasites and artificial roosting needs of bats in Australia); Tania Gonzalez (conservation and habitat of the banana bat in Mexico); Vladislav Nachez (pollination ecology in Costa Rica); Emma Stone (effectiveness of bat-conservation measures in the United Kingdom); Angela England (ecological interactions between long-nosed bats and agaves in New Mexico); Joanna Coleman (effects of urbanization on prairie bats in Canada). Other scholars worked in Texas, Illinois, Madagascar, the Philippines, Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS


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Michael Buchalski
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Natalia Carrillo
(Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolas de Hidalgo) Mexico
Kevin Fraser
(University of New Brunswick) Nicaragua
Radek Lucan
(University of South Bohemia) Czech Republic
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BCI Field Workshops

Hands-on training for conservation and research

More than 1,375 land management and wildlife professionals and serious bat enthusiasts from 23 countries have attended BCI's field workshops in the past 17 years. For many, the rigorous six-day workshops redirected their careers or intensified their emphasis on bats. Today's leaders in bat conservation and research frequently list at least one BCI workshop on their résumés. The impact of this unique, hands-on training in field techniques, species identification, habitat assessment and much more has been enormous.

Bat Conservation and Management Workshops feature lectures and discussions, field trips to examine bat habitat and hands-on training in capturing and identifying diverse bat species. Acoustic Monitoring Workshops teach details of bat-call identification and strategies for setting up an acoustic-monitoring program.

The 71 people who attended 2007 workshops in Arizona, Pennsylvania and Kentucky included 8 university students and 2 professors, 15 federal biologists or land managers, 12 representatives of state and local agencies, 18 consultants and 7 representatives of conservation groups. In addition to North Americans, participants were from Brazil, Kenya and the United Kingdom.

MERLIN D. TUTTLE, BCI

Coordinator Kimberly Williams-Guillén (*right*) and a participant prepare to remove a captured bat from a mist net at a workshop in Nicaragua.

Five workshops are scheduled for North America during the summer of 2008. Four Bat Conservation and Management Workshops will be held in Arizona, California, and Pennsylvania, and an Acoustic Monitoring Workshop is scheduled for Califomia.

BCI, partnering with U.S. Forest Service International Programs, the U.S. Agency for International Development and Paso Pacífico, also conducted its first Spanish-language workshop for biologists and educators in Nicaragua. With strong interest and rave reviews in that session, another Nicaragua workshop is planned in January 2009 for multinational participants. Such workshops on conservation and management concerns for neotropical bats will provide crucial training for Latin American land managers and biologists. Led by partner Kimberly Williams-Guillén, they are closely modeled on BCI's popular North American Bat Conservation and Management Workshops.

Donors & Partners
Bass Foundation • Paso Pacífico
Bat Conservation & Management Inc.
U.S. Agency for International Development
USDA Forest Service International Programs
Wallace Research Foundation
Kimberly Williams-Guillén

North American Bat Conservation Fund

Donors
Dr. Jerry W. Cooney
Sherry Kritzer
U.S. Forest Service International Programs

Bat-conservation projects were conducted last year in Alberta (Canada), Chiapas (Mexico) and the Virgin Islands, Arizona and Indiana (United States) with support from BCI's North American Bat Conservation Fund.

The work included a study of pesticide levels in bats; the first bat survey of St. John Island (Virgin Islands); research into the causes and consequences of bat fatalities at wind facilities in Canada; documenting the importance of bats for insect control at Mexican coffee plantations; and restoration of a vital water supply in the Arizona desert.

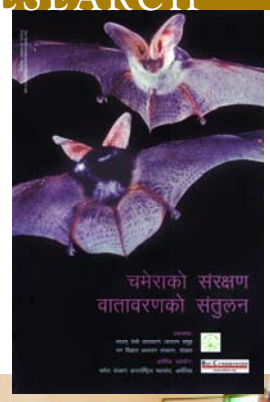
This small-grants program has provided $385,468 for 112 bat research and conservation projects throughout North America since its inception in 1998. Matching funds, typically from federal and state agencies and other conservation organizations, boosted the total value of the research to $3.57 million. Projects have been funded in 30 U.S. states, 8 Mexican states, 2 Canadian provinces and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Current NABCF grants, totaling $20,000, are funding important projects in Hawaii, South Carolina, British Columbia (Canada) and Coahuila and Chiapas (Mexico).

PHOTO BY ANIKO ZOLEI

A nectar-feeding bat, marked with a beaded collar, enjoys juice before its release in an NABCF project in Mexico.

Global Grassroots Conservation Fund



From Australia and Bangladesh to Venezuela and Vietnam, BCI's Global Grassroots Conservation Fund has supported homegrown conservation programs in 39 nations, tapping local expertise and enthusiasm to dramatically magnify the impact of grants that average just over $2,500 each.

Since 2000, we have invested $178,538 in 71 projects, sowing seeds of bat conservation that often pay dividends far into the future. In Nepal, for instance, there were no local bat biologists in 2006, when we gave Sujas Phuyal a Global Grassroots grant of $1,230 for an initial bat survey and educational visit to the Pokhara Valley. Sujas today is an enthusiastic bat researcher, a "Bat Club" is active at Nepal's national university and BCI South Asia Liaison Sally Walker has conducted a heavily attended bat-research field workshop in Nepal.

Current Grassroots projects include: the first-ever survey of bats and their role in forest regeneration at the logging-ravaged Tanjung Putting National Park in Indonesia; a community-education program on fruit bats threatened by poachers at a 440-year-old pagoda in Vietnam; developing classroom activities and materials for bat education in Brazilian schools; production of a *Bats of the Cayman Islands Educator's Guide* for public and private schools in the Caymans; support for the first scientific Symposium on Bat Research in Colombia; and the design and testing of cost-effective bat houses for the Comoros Islands, off southeast Africa.

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(*Above*) Children display their bat drawings during an education project supported by Global Grassroots in Colombia. (*Top*) A bat brochure for Nepal.

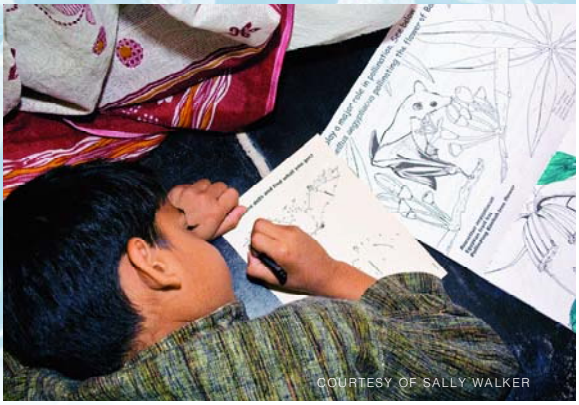
BCI South Asia Liaison

Children around India and neighboring nations are learning the values of bats through new, information-packed bats coloring books, as well as games, masks, fact cards and colorful mini-posters about these fascinating mammals. BCI South Asia Liaison Sally Walker and her team developed these popular teaching tools, along with special "Drama Kits" that help conservationists teach people of all ages about bats through school or village programs.

The recently completed educational packets were prepared with BCI support to Walker, administrator of the Chiroptera Conservation and Information Network of South Asia (CCINSA). The publications grew, in part, out of the bat clubs formed at schools scattered throughout the region. During India's Wildlife Week in October 2007, 31 schools, parks, reserves and conservation groups used the materials to entertain and educate more than 1,400 children about bats. The literature is being updated based on educator feedback and new information.

Walker also organized and supervised a field-research workshop in Nepal for 42 students, several of whom subsequently organized a popular bat club at their university. At least two graduates of the workshop are undertaking bat-research projects as part of their college studies.

CCINSA is an online network that distributes news, scientific reports, educational ideas and materials and other bat-related information to more than 165 conservationists, educators, biologists and bat enthusiasts, plus 57 universities and organizations. The network is an important voice for bat conservation in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.



A bat coloring book developed by BCI's South Asia Liaison is a fun way for children in India to learn about bats.

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COMBINED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

BAT CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL, INC.
As of May 31, 2008 (with summarized financial information as of May 31, 2007)

	May 31, 2008	May 31, 2007
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$1,106,622	$1,296,511
Marketable Securities at Fair Value	415,439	421,957
Trade Accounts Receivable	119,851	57,182
Grants and Pledges Receivable	734,718	828,338
Inventory	44,390	58,143
Deferred Expenses	13,569	25,652
Total Current Assets	$2,434,589	$2,687,783
Closely-Held Stock	102,315	102,315
Property, Plant and Equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of $656,702 and $614,781	430,586	455,284
Real Property (Bat Habitat), net of accumulated depreciation of $86,781 and $62,231	1,709,623	1,734,173
Permanently Restricted Assets – Marketable Securities at Fair Value	579,566	579,566
TOTAL ASSETS	$5,256,679	$5,559,121
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities:		
Trade Accounts Payable	$101,692	$46,774
Grants Payable	25,733	13,195
Accrued Expenses	168,569	155,147
Deferred Revenues	18,054	18,263
Advance Deposits and Prepaid Rent	51,423	46,992
Total Current Liabilities	365,471	280,371
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted:		
Invested in Property and Equipment	2,140,209	2,189,457
Designated for Operating Reserve	314,917	500,000
Designated for Endowment Purposes	261,685	261,685
Undesignated	99,968	171,933
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	2,816,779	3,123,075
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	1,494,863	1,576,109
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	579,566	579,566
Total Net Assets	4,891,208	5,278,750
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	$ 5,559,121	$ 4,979,135

COMBINED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

BAT CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL, INC.
For the Year Ended May 31, 2008 (with summarized financial information for the year ended May 31, 2007)

	May 31, 2008				May 31, 2007
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Total
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE:					
Grants	$389,797	$ 763,576	–	$1,153,373	$1,116,803
Memberships	733,719	–	–	733,719	752,403
Donations	558,727	221,967	–	780,694	804,745
Catalog sales, net of costs of $161,113 and $175,923	1,933	–	–	1,933	8,768
Investment Income, net	64,382	–	–	64,382	231,210
Contract & Miscellaneous Income	98,377	165,980	–	264,357	168,546
Education/Workshops Income	93,485	–	–	93,485	142,685
Rental Income	45,826	–	–	45,826	45,335
Royalty Income	7,255	10,043	–	17,298	14,348
Net Assets Released from Restrictions – Restrictions satisfied by payments	1,242,812	(1,242,812)	–	–	–
Total Public Support and Revenue	3,236,313	(81,246)	–	3,155,067	3,284,843
EXPENSES:					
Program Services:					
Education	702,292	–	–	702,292	600,619
Science and Conservation	2,157,637	–	–	2,157,637	1,568,577
Total Program Expenses	2,859,929	–	–	2,859,929	2,169,196
Supporting Services:					
Administrative	292,775	–	–	292,775	214,573
Fund Raising	389,905	–	–	389,905	326,103
Total Supporting Services	682,680	–	–	682,680	540,676
Total Expenses	3,542,609	–	–	3,542,609	2,709,872
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	(306,296)	(81,246)	–	(387,542)	574,971
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	3,123,075	1,576,109	579,566	5,278,750	4,703,779
Net Assets at End of Year	$2,816,779	$1,494,863	$579,566	$4,891,208	$5,278,750

Complete audited financial statements are available by writing to BCI at PO Box 162603 Austin, TX 78716

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Executive Director/Founder

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Director of Development
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Dan Taylor
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Christa Weise
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Lisa McCready
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Amy Price
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Jason Huerta
Graphics Designer

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Steve Elkins
Web Developer
John Nunn
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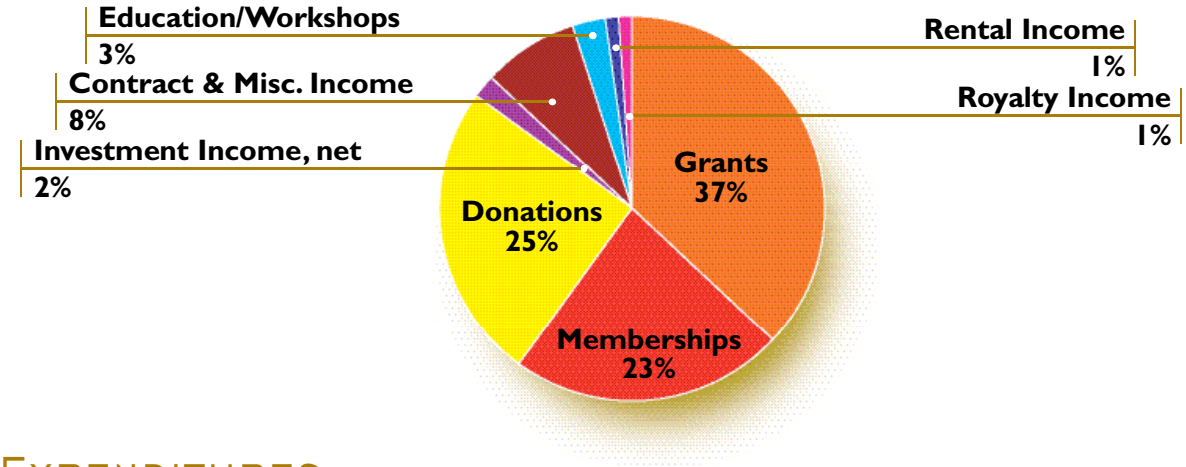
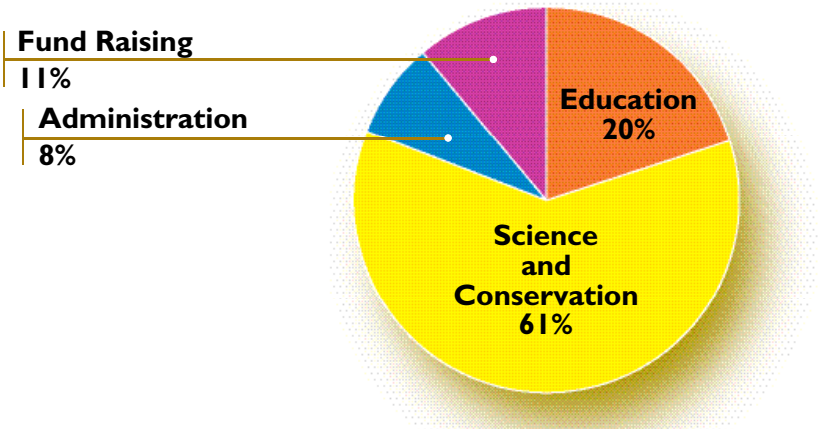
Administrative Support

Marianne Austin
Mail/Catalog Coordinator
Carolyn Kelly
Receptionist/Admin Assistant
Robbie Nelson
Accounting Assistant
Dianne Odegard
Executive Assistant

Revenue:



Expenditures:



The Year Ahead

North American bats are facing an unprecedented threat this year: a mysterious malady that has killed tens of thousands of bats, virtually annihilating populations at some hibernation sites, where mortality rates of up to 90 percent are reported. Scientists do not yet understand what causes White-nose Syndrome or what can be done to deal with it.

Bat Conservation International must again step forward to help meet this urgent challenge by supporting the most critical research and planning needed to find possible causes and solutions. This is the most import issue we face in the year ahead. So we are turning to our members and friends to help us deal with this devastating problem.

White-nose Syndrome, named for the white fungus often seen on the faces of affected bats, was first reported during the winter of 2007 in two New York hibernation caves where thousands of bats died. Much worse die-offs occurred last winter as hibernation caves in New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and possibly Pennsylvania were affected. WNS is killing bats of at least five species, including the endangered Indiana myotis. Large numbers of dead and dying bats were emaciated. How far and how fast this deadly syndrome might spread is unclear, but the threat is staggering.

BCI, working with partners and colleagues, played a key role in organizing and underwriting an emergency meeting of scientists to set research priorities for attacking WNS. But funding is scarce and progress is slow. We desperately need your support to help top researchers tackle the most promising scientific questions – while there is still time to prevent further disaster. You can contribute at: *www.batcon.org/whitenose*.

This year, BCI is also preparing a comprehensive Strategic Plan to guide our 26-year-old organization into the future. We must ensure that our education, conservation and research programs remain vibrant and effective, while BCI establishes a solid businesslike foundation on which to grow beyond the eventual retirement of Founder and Executive Director Merlin Tuttle.

The Mission of Bat Conservation International

Bat Conservation International is committed to:

- **Education** – Teaching people to understand and value bats as essential allies
- **Conservation** – Protecting bats and bat habitats and encouraging others to join in our efforts
- **Research** – Advancing scientific knowledge about bats, their conservation needs and the ecosystems that rely on them
- **Win-Win Solutions** – Relying on non-confrontational approaches that help both bats and people