



NEWS RELEASE

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Many People Going Batty This Month

Carmel, Indiana – As Halloween approaches, many people are taking time to learn about one of nature’s most misunderstood creatures: the bat.

“Many people do not understand the useful role bats play in their yards by helping control insect populations,” stated John Schaust Chief Naturalist at Wild Birds Unlimited. “Most of the myths about bats have created such fear that the topic of bat conservation is rarely discussed.”

Bat habitats are diminishing across North America, making their survival more difficult. Many people are providing bat boxes in their yards, giving bats a place to roost and raise their young.

“Bats not only provide insect control for your yard, they also can be interesting and entertaining to observe,” explained Schaust. “Nursery colonies are especially interesting as you periodically observe the young roosting once the mothers leave at dusk.”

[The Organization for Bat Conservation](#) (OBC) has developed bat box specifications based on years of scientific research. The OBC, in conjunction with Wild Birds Unlimited, has developed a bat box that meets these specifications and provides the features that successfully attract bats. In addition, a percentage of the sales from each OBC bat box goes to OBC for bat research, rescue and public education.

Research shows that bat boxes have a greater success of occupancy if they have at least eight hours of sun. Bat boxes should face the south or southeast and should be mounted on a pole or the side of a building at least 15 feet above the ground, the higher, the better.

“These are truly amazing creatures,” added Schaust. “The more people know about bats, the less they have to be afraid of them.”

If you have questions about bats, bat conservation and/or attracting bats to your yard, stop in [Wild Birds Unlimited](#) for advice and a free brochure. Or visit our web site and learn more about creating a [bat habitat](#) in your yard.

Wild Birds Unlimited is the original and largest franchise system of backyard bird feeding and nature specialty stores with more than 250 locations throughout the United States and Canada. Wild Birds Unlimited specializes in bringing people and nature together with bird feeding and nature products, expert advice and educational events. Visit our Web site, and shop online at www.wbu.com.

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