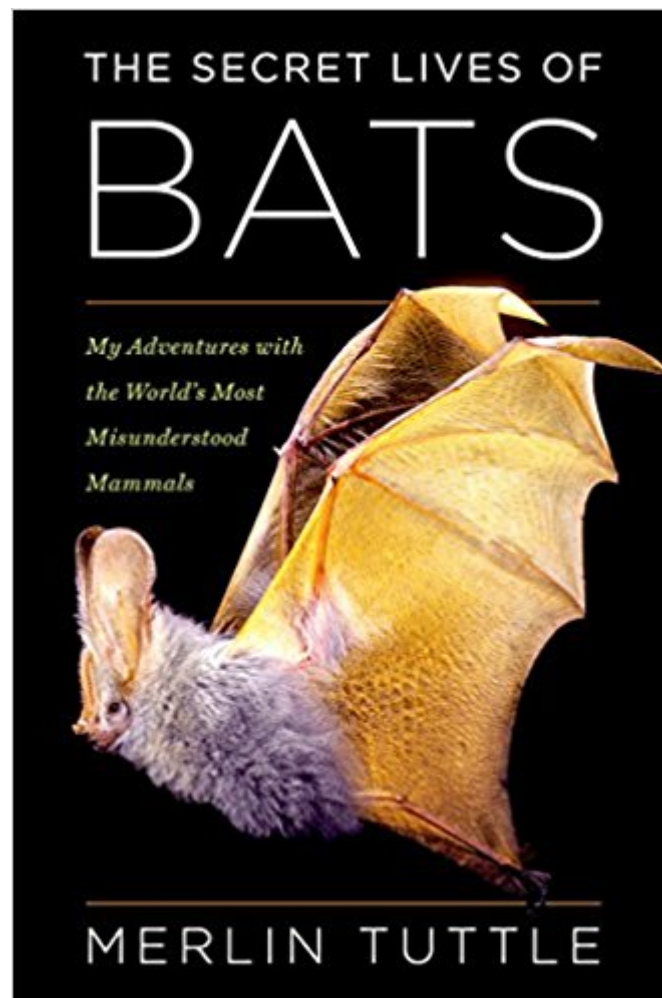




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# The Secret Lives Of Bats: My Adventures With The World's Most Misunderstood Mammals



## Synopsis

A lifetime of adventures with bats around the world reveals why these special and imperiled creatures should be protected rather than feared. From menacing moonshiners and armed bandits to charging elephants and man-eating tigers, Merlin Tuttle has stopped at nothing to find and protect bats on every continent they inhabit. Enamored of bats ever since discovering a colony in a cave as a boy, Tuttle saw how effective photography could be in persuading people not to fear bats, and he has spent his career traveling the world to document them. Few people realize how sophisticated and intelligent bats are. Tuttle shares research showing that frog-eating bats can identify frogs by their calls, that vampire bats have a social order similar to that of primates, and that bats have remarkable memories. Bats also provide enormous benefits by eating crop pests, pollinating plants, and carrying seeds needed for reforestation. They save farmers billions of dollars annually and are essential to a healthy planet. Sharing highlights from a lifetime of adventure and discovery, Tuttle takes us to the frontiers of bat research and conservation and forever changes the way we see these poorly understood yet fascinating creatures.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bats are "sophisticated, beautiful, even cute, quite aside from their crucial roles as primary predators of insects, pollinators of flowers and dispersers of seeds," writes Tuttle, an ecologist who has championed their cause for more than 50 years. The author's cover stories and photographs have been featured in National Geographic and other magazines, and he has traveled the globe to study bats in their natural cave habitats, risking his life in the process. After obtaining a

doctorate in bat biology, Tuttle worked as the curator of the Milwaukee Public Museum. In 1982, he resigned and founded the advocacy organization Bat Conservation International to enlist support for these much-maligned mammals that are in danger of becoming an endangered species. Bats are wrongly accused of destroying crops and spreading diseases such as rabies, and they are confused with their mythical blood-sucking namesakes. Tuttle sets the record straight, showing the important role bats play in pest control and their potential boom for farmers. "A single bat could catch thousands of insects in just one hour," he writes. "Bats ha[ve] a far better record of living safely with humans than even our beloved dogs, and— they also play essential roles in supporting human economies." Using implanted microchips to track their behavior, scientists have established that certain bats are comparable to elephants in their ability to maintain complex social relationships. They have highly sophisticated hunting practices and are altruistic within their groups. Tuttle notes that it is not unusual to find as many as 100,000 bats clustered together hibernating. His fascination with them began when he was 12 and he observed them in a cave near his Tennessee home. Encouraged by his father, who was a botanist, he explored the local caves where bats hibernated and studied their migratory behavior. Tuttle's recent attempts to photograph them in their natural habitat have led him through many hair-raising adventures, which he entertainingly chronicles. A page-turning memoir of curiosity about—and dedication to—a significant part of the natural world.--Kirkus Reviews

From moonshiners and bandits to charging elephants and man-eating tigers, Merlin Tuttle has stopped at nothing to find and protect bats on every continent they inhabit. Enamored of bats ever since discovering a colony in a cave as a boy, Tuttle saw how effective photography could be in persuading people not to fear bats, and he has spent much of his career traveling the world to document them. Few people realize how sophisticated and intelligent bats are. Tuttle shares research showing that frog-eating bats can identify frogs by their calls, that some bats have social sophistication similar to that of higher primates, and that bats have remarkable memories. Bats also provide enormous benefits by eating crop pests, pollinating plants, and carrying seeds needed for reforestation. They save farmers billions of dollars annually and are essential to a healthy planet. Sharing highlights from a lifetime of adventure and discovery, Tuttle takes us to the frontiers of bat research and conservation and forever changes the way we see these poorly understood yet fascinating creatures.

I bought this book because I was doing a multi-genre large project for my college english class and

my subject was going to be about bat conservation. The book was very interesting for learning about bats but not necessarily for research purposes. What was not clear to me (perhaps it was my fault, was this was a collection of mostly stories about his past escapades. While it was fun and interesting to read, but I bought it more for real current statistics and information, not old stories. If you want to read a book about funny stories about studying bats, then this is great. Yes, it does go into a lot of scientific information about the studies, because it was not current information, I couldn't use much for my research. So if you want a research book this is probably not the best. I got an A+ on my assignment but it was due to information I gathered elsewhere. I do know a heck of a lot about bats now, though!

I can't get over how good this book was. When I purchased it, I didn't utilize the look inside feature so I assumed it was going to be a rather dry bat biology book. Boy, was I wrong. It's a fascinating account of a bat conservationist's efforts to educate the world while saving as many bats as he can. A fun and entertaining read that I've already recommended to several people.

Easy to read and very interesting by the founder of Bat Conservation International, the one and only international bat organization that's worthy of our donations. (I'm not including Bat World Sanctuary because they have a different mission, they too are worthy of our donations!)

Readable, interesting, fascinating. The only fault I can find is that it often has a bit of a 19th century colonial patronistic know-it-all feel. Like "Relax. The expert has now arrived. Stand aside while I fix things. Just stand back and watch in amazement." and I'll make it all better now

While I enjoyed the overall narrative of the book, part of me wishes that there had been more bat specific anecdotes of their behavior, appearance and such

As someone who has always been fascinated with bats, I had to have this book once I learned it existed. I admire Merlin Tuttle and his dedication to helping bats around the world and to changing the way people view bats. This book was a great way to learn about bats through interesting stories and adventures that Merlin has had. It is a wonderful book, full of information about bats that I can incorporate into educational programs. I highly recommend it!

Dr. Tuttle shares the adventure, mystery, fears and triumphs of an outstanding researcher. He

explains the science well enough for the layman to understand while deepening the understanding of the professional. Any good scientist retains a child's sense of magic and adventure, which is amply demonstrated in this book. His impact on the world's ecology has been truly impressive ; it's a joy to read the story of how he accomplished so much. This should be assigned reading for young ecologists!

Very entertaining and educational book! I have known the author for 45 years and can tell you he is not making this stuff up! He has just had some amazing, and often dangerous experiences (almost fatal in a couple of cases). Highly recommended.

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