

recorded. Tissue, hair, fecal samples, and ectoparasites were collected from the 77 individuals captured. These data will be used for local studies of the effect of water quality on foraging behavior of bats in Piedmont watersheds, as well as for studies on the co-evolution of bats and parasites, the evolutionary relationships of North American bats, and the ecology of migratory bat species. In order to increase public awareness of bat conservation, the media was invited to participate. The Bat Blitz was covered in local and statewide papers, and also featured internationally as a 4-minute CNN television piece ('Next@CNN'). Major monetary and logistic sponsors of the Bat Blitz were the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network (SBDN), Land Trust of Central North Carolina, North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, North Carolina State Parks, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Clemson University, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service-North Carolina National Forest, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge. Based on the success of this and the previous Bat Blitz events, a committee has been formed within the SBDN to oversee future Bat Blitz events.

Economic Value of Pest Control Services by Brazilian Free-tailed Bats in Texas Cotton Production

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Brazilian free-tailed bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) form enormous breeding colonies each summer in large caves in south-central Texas and northern Mexico. Prey of these bats includes several species of adult insects whose larvae are known to be important agricultural pests, including the corn earworm or bollworm (*Helicoverpa zea*). We estimate the value of the bats in controlling this pest in cotton production for an eight county region in south-central Texas. We estimate the avoided damage at \$741,000 per year, with a range of \$121,000 to \$1,725,000, compared to a \$6 million per year annual cotton harvest.

The Effects of Post-fire Forest Regeneration on Bat Activity in the Sierra Nevada

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We used acoustic monitoring and mist netting to study the differences in bat activity between an area of coniferous forest regenerating after a forest fire and a controlled area of unburned forest. We tested the null hypothesis that there would be no difference between bat activity within the burned and unburned areas. Our alternate hypothesis was that the level of bat activity within the burned area would be lower than in the unburned area because the forest fire resulted in the mortality or removal of trees used as roosting habitat by bats and plants used as food resources by insects. We used Anabat II ultrasonic bat detectors with sound activated recording devices as well as mist net captures to determine the differences in bat activity levels