



Human-Wildlife Conflict: Bats and Exclusion

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Human-Wildlife Conflict?

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What Will We Talk About?

- ▶ Bats as house guests
 - ▶ The 5 W's
- ▶ Management options
 - ▶ What works and what doesn't
- ▶ Bats and health risks




Bats as House Guests

- ▶ The 5 W's:
 - ▶ Who/What:
 - ▶ Little brown bat
 - ▶ Big brown bat
 - ▶ Tricolored bat
 - ▶ Soft scratching, squeaking
 - ▶ Squirrel or bat
 - Activity time!
 - ▶ Fluttering, rustling
 - ▶ Bird
 - Chimney swifts enter chimney at dusk
 - ▶ Chirping, loud scratching
 - ▶ Raccoon



Bats as House Guests

- ▶ Signs pointing to bats:
 - ▶ Evidence of guano
 - ▶ Bat droppings
 - Small, dark pellets found in piles
 - Break apart easily to reveal shiny bits of undigested insect chitin
 - ▶ Rodent droppings
 - Harder and scattered around
 - ▶ Increased disturbance near dusk
 - ▶ You can see them leaving a dusk



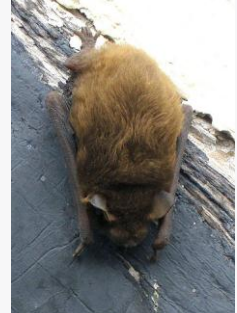
Bats as House Guests

- ▶ The 5 W's:
 - ▶ Who/What:
 - ▶ Little brown bat
 - ▶ Big brown bat
 - ▶ Tricolored bat
 - ▶ Where:
 - ▶ Attics, walls, chimneys
 - ▶ When:
 - ▶ April – October
 - ▶ Sometimes year-round
 - ▶ Why:
 - ▶ Maternity colonies
 - ▶ Hibernacula



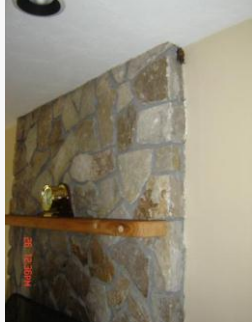
Management Options: What Works and What Doesn't

- ▶ What doesn't work:
 - ▶ Pesticides
 - ▶ Roost is still available
 - ▶ None legally registered
 - ▶ Just as harmful to humans
 - ▶ Catch and release
 - ▶ They will just come back
 - ▶ Moth balls, ultrasonic devices
 - ▶ Research reports ineffective
- ▶ What DOES work:
 - ▶ Exclusion



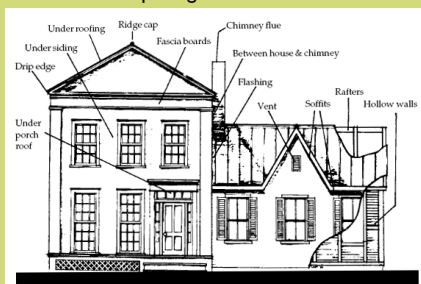
Bat Exclusion

- ▶ Identify access points
 - ▶ May be multiple points



Bats as House Guests

- ▶ Can enter 3/8" + openings



Bat Access Points?





www.WildlifeInTheCity.com





Bat Access Points?

Piles of Guano



ICWDM.ORG & USDA/WS

Smudge marks




ICWDM.ORG & USDA/WS

**** Most access points will be at least 8 feet off the ground and will require a ladder or roof access – be careful!**

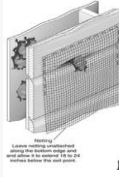
Bat Exclusion

- ▶ Identify access points
 - ▶ May be multiple points
- ▶ Install one-way exclusion devices over access points
 - ▶ **TIMING IS CRITICAL!**
 - ▶ No exclusion from April through August
 - ▶ Wait until September – November
 - ▶ Permanently seal all other holes



One-Way Exclusion Devices

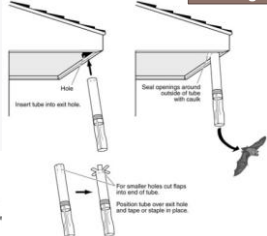
Netting or screening



Screening netting placed over the hole and secured with wire mesh.

Screening netting secured to the bottom edge and held in place by a spring clip or wire mesh before use and closed.

Tubing



Insert tube into exit hole.

Seal openings around outside of tube with caulk.

Attach plastic chimney to the end of the tube.



Secure wire mesh cap to chimney with silicone caulk.

For smaller holes cut flaps into end of tube.

Push tube over exit hole and tape or staple in place.

www.batcon.org

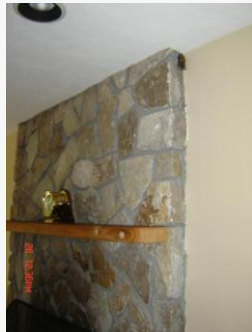
One-Way Exclusion Devices

- ▶ Take care installing devices correctly
 - ▶ Check the first evening for problems
 - ▶ Bat getting stuck
 - ▶ If bats are using devices
- ▶ Excluding at night
 - ▶ Wait until majority of bats have exited
 - ▶ Can be dangerous for you!
- ▶ Call a professional bat excluder!

Bat Exclusion

- ▶ Identify access points
 - ▶ May be multiple points
- ▶ Install one-way exclusion devices over access points
 - ▶ **TIMING IS CRITICAL!**
 - ▶ Breeding from early April to late August
 - ▶ Wait until September – November
- ▶ Leave in place 7 days
 - ▶ Permanently seal up entrances and exits
- ▶ November:
 - ▶ Most colonies gone
 - ▶ If not overwintering, can seal up access points w/o one-way devices



Bat Exclusion

- ▶ What about in barns?
 - ▶ Very difficult to exclude bats from old buildings
 - ▶ Use tarps to cover equipment
 - ▶ Bat houses inside the barn may concentrate bats to a certain area
- ▶ Overwintering bats?
 - ▶ September-October exclusion
 - ▶ Use one-way devices



Bats and Health Risks

- ▶ Histoplasmosis
 - ▶ Fungus grows on feces
 - ▶ Best where soil enriched by bird or bat feces for 2+ yrs
 - ▶ Rare in hot, dry attics
 - ▶ Risk increases with accumulation
 - ▶ 2" – 3" guano?
 - ▶ Treat with caution
 - Small particle gas mask and biohazard suit
 - ▶ Or call professional!!



Bats and Health Risks

- ▶ Rabies
 - ▶ Rare – less than 1%
 - ▶ If exposure suspected, keep bat for testing
 - ▶ No charge for testing
 - ▶ Ohio Health Department
 - ▶ www.odh.ohio.gov
 - Search 'Rabies'
 - ▶ 614-644-4654



The Lone Bat

- ▶ The Lost Bat
 - ▶ Disoriented
 - ▶ Could mean a colony...
- ▶ What NOT to do:
 - ▶ Grab a tennis racquet
 - ▶ Practice your batting skills
 - ▶ Use an insect net
- ▶ What to do:
 - ▶ Be patient
 - ▶ Box-a-bat (remember gloves!)
 - ▶ Restrict the bat to one room, open a window, and turn off lights



Wrap-Up Comments

- ▶ Remember the insectivorous nature of bats – excluding them will exclude the benefits
- ▶ Suggest putting up a bat house to entice the excluded bats to stick around
- ▶ If the bats are not posing a health threat, perhaps the client would consider letting the bats stay
- ▶ Bats will not use a bat house unless they are excluded from the building first
- ▶ There are professional bat excluders that can do the job for them

Fact Sheet Coming Soon

- ▶ Managing Bats in Buildings
 - ▶ OSU Extension FS
- ▶ Bat Conservation International
 - ▶ www.batcon.org
 - ▶ Bats in Buildings fact sheet
 - ▶ Do-it-yourself exclusion guide



Questions?



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