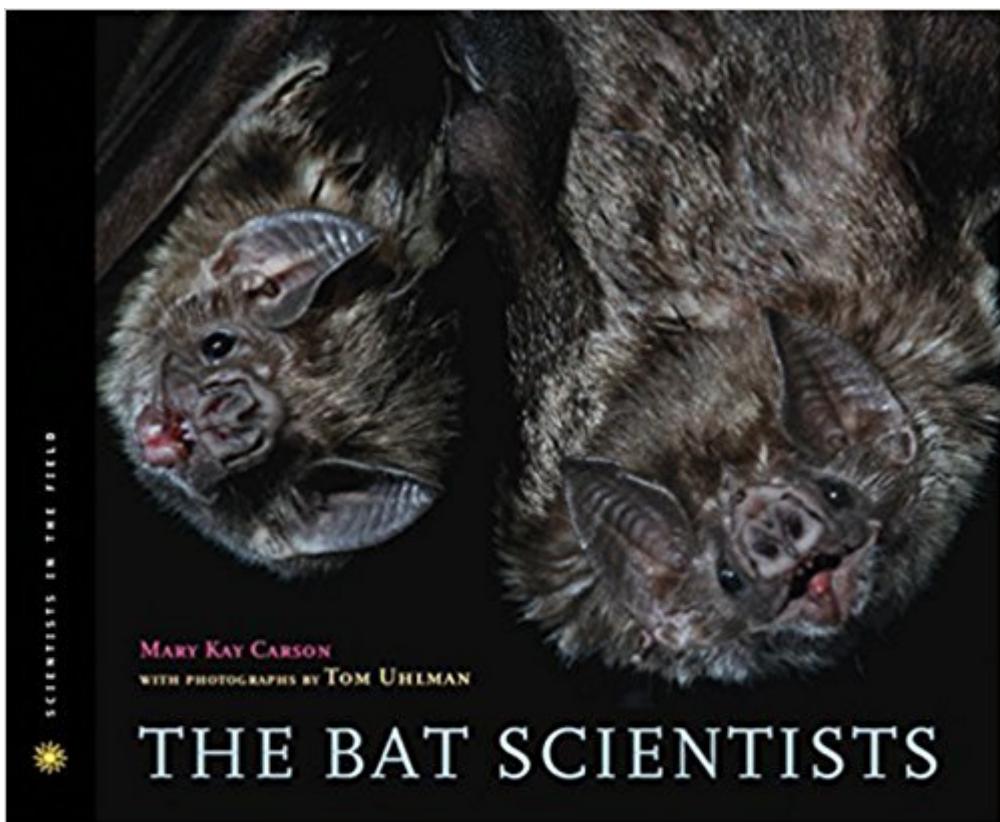


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# The Bat Scientists (Scientists In The Field Series)



## Synopsis

Dr. Merlin Tuttle and his colleagues at Bat Conservation International aren't scared of bats. These bat crusaders are fascinated by them, with good reason. Bats fly the night skies in nearly every part of the world, but they are the least studied of all mammals. As the major predator of night-flying insects, bats eat many pests. Unfortunately bats are facing many problems, including a terrifying new disease. White-nose Syndrome is infecting and killing millions of hibernating bats in North America. But Dr. Tuttle, with the help of his fellow bat scientists are in the trenches—and caves—on the front line of the fight to save their beloved bats.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1010L (What's this?)

Series: Scientists in the Field Series

Hardcover: 80 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (September 6, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547199562

ISBN-13: 978-0547199566

Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #845,782 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #129 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Rocks & Minerals #547 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Biology #602 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Environment & Ecology

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 5-8—This series entry takes readers along with Merlin Tuttle and a crew of BCI (Bat Conservation International) into bat caves and bridges, trees and houses to study these agile flutterers. Carson's readable, informative text dispels the ugly myths that have haunted these nocturnal hunter/gatherers, detailing bats' usefulness to humankind from gobbling up mosquitoes to

scarfing down corn earworm moths to pollinating a multitude of plants throughout the rain forest. Replete with superb close-ups of big ears, hairless pups, furrowed faces, and fragile wings, the text describes the damage done by humans to bat environments and the ravages of white-nose syndrome, and tells of efforts to restore and protect hibernating sites and maternity colonies. Readers not ready for this richness of detail should enjoy Laurence Pringle's *Handsome Bats* (Boyds Mills, 2000), while those wanting more can plunge into Sandra Markle's elegant *Inside and Outside Bats* (S & S/Atheneum, 1997). Readers in the "more, more, more" contingent can investigate Karen Taschek's more challenging *Hanging with Bats* (Univ. of Mexico Press, 2008). A strong scientific look at a unique and often unloved mammal and the scientists who happily investigate them. —Patricia Manning, formerly at Eastchester Public Library, NY

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**\*Starred Review\*** With clear, informal prose and beautiful close-up color photos on every double-page spread, this exciting title in the *Scientists in the Field* series follows a team of dedicated bat specialists. Along the way, Carson dispels popular myths about the often maligned animals with solid information: bats are not blind, very few drink blood, and they are important pest controllers. The color photographs, including many full-page images, are spellbinding, from the image of a Texas cave filled with millions of adult bats to a close-up view of a single, walnut-sized baby. Many facts will be new to most readers—bats are the only mammals that fly; more than one-fifth of all the roughly 5,000 mammal species are bats—and young people will be easily drawn in by Carson's lucid, fascinating explanations of concepts and her vivid descriptions of scientists at work. The conservation message is urgent: bats' habitats are quickly disappearing because of overhunting, tourism, mining, and many other human-related causes. Whether describing the physics of echolocation or the present crisis of white-nose syndrome, Carson encourages readers to rethink stereotypes about creatures once scorned as flying vermin and shows how intricately their survival is tied to our own. Extensive back matter, including a glossary and a bibliography of books and Web sites, closes this standout resource. Grades 7-10. --Hazel Rochman

This book explains the work of bat scientist with clear and vivid photographs. The book expresses the valuable niche bats provide in our ecosystem and helps children understand how to take care of the environment bats live in. Good for ages 10 and up.

just loved it also fast shipping

This book convinces you. Mary Kay Carson ends her book with the above quote by Dr. Merlin Tuttle, founder of Bat Conservation International (BCI). This 80 page book conveys the uniqueness of bats - bats comprise 1/5 of ALL mammals (about 1,000 species of bats), bats are the only mammal to fly, most bats birth only 1 baby per year, many cave ecosystems depend upon bats for existence, bats instead of chemicals can be used for pest control, and bats pollinate many plants just as bees do. Main Contents: Working In The Dark Changing Minds, Rescuing Bats Going Underground Building Bat Homes Discovering Bats' Secrets There is an index(!), an appendix with websites and books, and a definitions list. The photography is excellent. The photograph on pg. 29 of one of the scientists feeding milk to a rescued baby red bat is worth a thousand words! Even though I've appreciated bats for a long time, I learned some things from this book. It is the beetles in caves (which feed on bat guano) that produce the deadly ammonia gas as a waste product. A few bats prefer hollow trees instead of crevices or bat houses to roost so the scientists are experimenting with artificial towers. If anyone needs one more reason bats are important - tequila. Bats are the main pollinators of several agave species, including agave tequilana--the tequila plant. Some folks think that without bats we would no longer have agave tequilana. While there are other bat organizations active (Organization For Bat Conservation, e.g.), the author focuses only on BCI. There are mentions of federal and state agencies usually in conjunction with BCI.

The photographs are startling in their beauty. I mean, let's face it, bats aren't known as being especially handsome creatures. But photographer Tom Uhlman, with a combination of in-your-face close-ups and impressive vistas, has rendered bats majestic, personable, even cute. That's talent. But the heart of The Bat Scientists is Mary Kay Carson's informative, easy-to-understand text. Her subject here is twofold: she imparts a vast amount of knowledge about bats and, as the title suggests, an equal amount of detail on the people who study them, strive to protect them and do their best to explode the myths that lead people to fear, hate and kill them. by Tom Knapp, the Rambles.(net) guy

Did you know bats are the only mammals that fly? In this beautiful and informative book (with amazing images, many of them close up) Carson offers fascinating "bat basics" before leading readers inside caves and under bridges with scientists from Bat Conservation International. Carson

recounts the dangers to these often misunderstood and beneficial animals, including damage to bat environments and the plague white-nose syndrome. She also highlights the urgent need and efforts to protect bats. Carson's energetic, clear writing and Tom Uhlman's incredible photos make for a great addition to the acclaimed Scientists in the Field series.

Tom Uhlman's color photos lend well to THE BAT SCIENTISTS, a fine survey of the work of famed bat scientist Dr. Merlin Tuttle and his colleagues at bat Conservation International. The author and her colleague follow the bat scientists into the caves - and reveal the fight to save bats around the world in this fine pick for any elementary-level science collection!

This gorgeously photographed book is packed with details both educational and entertaining. Bats are terribly misunderstood and Carson's text combined with Uhlman's photographs go a long way toward debunking many unfair bat myths. The description of 270 tons of bats crowded into Bracken Bat Cave is especially fascinating, with a delightfully squirmy description of walking in knee-deep bat guano.

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