



The bats of Romania

A treasure of European importance

Bats - more than legendary!

The 1,300 bat species of the world are extremely beneficial to mankind. By pollinating flowers, bats in the tropics help us to get chocolate. To produce banana or avocado, and other 450 species of plants and fruits. Bat species of Europe, including also those of Romania, consume enormous quantities of insects: mosquitoes, moths, beetles and other insect species. A colony of 200 bats devours over 80,000,000 insects each year. Globally, bats reduce with over 1 billion USD the annual costs associated with fighting the pests of maize.

Romania - remarkably important!

31 bat species are present in Romania. Caves in our carstic areas are home to some of the largest bat colonies in Europe, two of them going over the threshold of 100,000 bats. Attics of buildings harbor colonies of thousands of bats, while forest-loving bat species hunt in Romania's ancient forests or other high quality habitats.

Although super-beneficial, bats are endangered!

In spite of the benefits obtained due to their presence, bats are endangered by various human activities, such as intensive logging, use of insecticides, ad hoc renovation of buildings, and sometimes by uninformed and irresponsible tourism. In addition unfounded legends still persists in Romania, about bats getting entangled in our hair, or intentionally destroying the walls of buildings. All these legends are false.

Everyone can contribute to bat protection!

We can deconstruct myths with science-based knowledge. In caves or other circumstances, when we encounter bats, we can behave in a responsible and careful way. The most important is the protection of hibernation colonies (from 1st of November to 31st of March) and maternity colonies (from 15th of May to 15th of August) by avoiding them, and by planning any activity regarding roosts excluding these periods. Last but not least, we can become emissaries of bats, and spread correct information about them!

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