

Little Red and Black Flying foxes camp in the mangroves and trees along the rivers in the Kimberly. They are the most intelligent of all native animals.

Flying foxes do not use echolocation (sonar) to navigate in the dark. They have excellent eyesight and a good sense of smell to locate their traditional food—the nectar, pollen and fruit of native trees. They will also eat exotic fruit (such as mangoes and pawpaws) if they are available.

Little Red Flying Foxes mainly eat the nectar of native trees.

The females give birth to a single baby a year.



Black flying-fox
Pteropus alecto
Photo: Bruce Thomson

Do bats carry diseases?

ALL animals (including humans) carry organisms that may cause disease.

Some bats may carry a virus that causes a rabies-like illness.

Bats are wild animals and like all wild animals they may bite and scratch to protect themselves.

Do not attempt to handle any wild animal, including bats.

If you are bitten or scratched by a bat, wash the area thoroughly and see a doctor as soon as possible

For more information on bats

Australian Museum Online

<http://www.amonline.net.au/bats/>

Australasian Bat Society Inc

<http://abs.ausbats.org.au>

What should I do if I find a bat?

Leave them alone! You may cause serious harm to bats and their young if you disturb them when they are roosting (sleeping).

If a bat seems sick or injured DO NOT attempt to catch it yourself.

If a bat is caught on barbed wire or in netting DO NOT attempt to free it yourself.

For assistance contact:

Kimberley Wildlife Carers and Associates

Care and Rescue (08) 9193 7489 or 0428 860 014

PO Box 1297 BROOME WA 6725

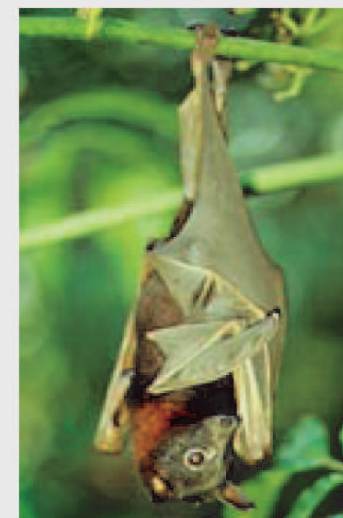
admin@kimberleywildlife.org

www.kimberleywildlife.org

Bats of Broome



Bats of Broome



Little Red Flying-Fox
Pteropus scapulatus
Photo: Bruce Thomson

There 75 species of bats in Australia.

Megabats or flying foxes are large bats that eat nectar, pollen and fruit and roost (sleep) in trees in large colonies. They have an important role in maintaining the health of the bush because they pollinate many plants and disperse their seeds.

Microbats are small bats that eat insects and roost in caves, tree hollows, roof spaces, mines and tunnels. They have an important role in controlling pest insects.

Why we need Bats

- ◆ Bats have a key role in maintaining a healthy environment
- ◆ Flying foxes pollinate and disperse the seeds of many native trees—without the bats our bush plants would get sick.
- ◆ Microbats eat insects—without the bats we would be over-run with bugs!
- ◆ Many bat species are rare or vulnerable due to habitat destruction, so it's important we try to protect them now before it is too late.



Photo: Lindy Lumsden

Lesser Long-eared Bat
Nyctophilus geoffroyi

Amazing Bat Facts

- ◆ 20% of all mammal species on earth are bats.
- ◆ Bats are the only mammals that can fly.
- ◆ Microbats eat up to 1/2 of their body-weight in insects every night—that includes mosquitos
- ◆ Baby bats weigh 25% of their mother's body weight at birth - the equivalent of a 60kg woman giving birth to a 15kg baby!
- ◆ Bats turn head-up and hang by their thumbs to go to the toilet.
- ◆ Microbats are everywhere, you just don't often see them because they are so small and hide away during the day.
- ◆ Look up at the sky at dusk—you might see a microbat hunting insects or flying foxes flying out from the mangroves.



Photo: Lindy Lumsden

Goulds Wattled Bat

What you can do

- ◆ Protect large trees with hollows (dead and alive) - they provide safe resting places for microbats.
- ◆ Plant native trees.
- ◆ Keep your domestic animals under control.
- ◆ Never disturb roosting (sleeping) bats.
- ◆ If you don't want to share your mangoes and pawpaws with the flying foxes pick them a bit green.



Photo: Lindy Lumsden

Yellow-Bellied Freetail Bat
Saccolaimus flaviventris