



Bats

by Phil Richardson

ISBN: 0565092758; RRP £12.99

**Good
for General
Introduction**

Part of the Natural History Museum's Life Series, this book was first published 10 years ago but a new, fully revised, edition was produced in 2011. It provides a highly informative introduction to the world of bats.

The first two chapters give a very accessible overview of bat evolution, biology and behaviour. Phil Richardson then continues, with the next two chapters, to provide an insight into the diversity of bat species around the world. The images accompanying the text are really excellent, from pollen feeders to frog eaters, from the largest to the smallest and the rarest to the more common. The final section on bat conservation considers why bats are under threat in many parts of the world, busts some myths and considers what can be done to protect these incredible animals.

This is a superb all round introduction to bats and their wide diversity of form and lifestyles.

You might also like :

A Guide to British Bats by Kate Jones & Allyson Walsh (ISBN: 978-1851538751; RRP: £2.75).

The Bats of Britain and Ireland by H.W. Schofield, A.J. Mitchell-Jones & D.W. Ovenden (ISBN: 0946081530; RRP £10.25).

Bats: From Evolution to Conservation

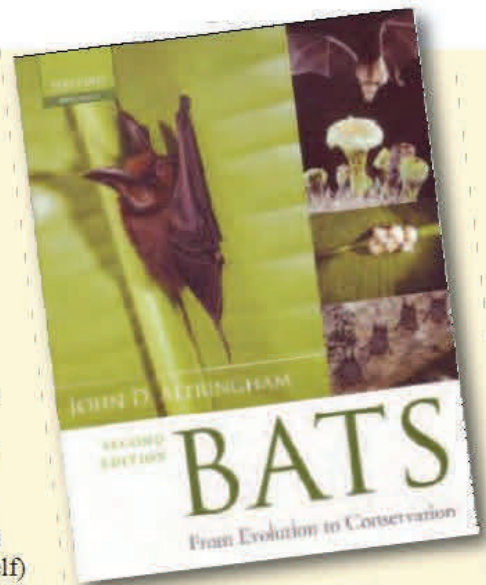
by John D. Altringham

ISBN: 0199207127; RRP £32.50

**Good
for More
in Depth**

This is the second edition of John Altringham's 'Bats' book, reflecting the continuing advances and discoveries in bat research. The book covers all the key aspects of bat biology and ecology from first principles of flight and echolocation to the energetics of torpor and hibernation, from the complexities of reproduction to social and population structures. With an excellent introduction to the evolution of bats and a whole chapter on conservation, this is a great book to take your bat knowledge to the next level.

The primary audience for this book may be undergraduate students but it is suitable for any bat enthusiast (amateur or professional) who wants to understand more of the science of bats. If you have ever been asked (or even asked yourself) a question about bats where your first thought is "that's a great question" followed by "I don't really know the answer to that" this is definitely the book for you. A great addition to your library and an absolute must for anyone who leads bat walks or gives talks.



You might also like:

Bats of Britain, Europe and Northwest Africa by Christian Dietz, Otto von Helversen & Dietmar Nill (ISBN: 1408105314; RRP £45.00).

The Bat Detective: A Field Guide to Bat Detection (Book & CD) by Brian Briggs & David King (ISBN: 0953242609; RRP £22.50).
Handbook of Mammals of the British Isles by Stephen Harris & Derek W Yalden (ISBN: 0906282659; RRP £45).

British Bat Calls: A Guide to Species Identification

by Jon Russ

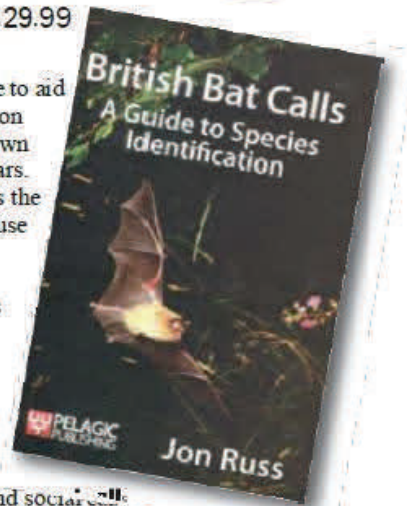
ISBN: 190780725X; RRP £29.99

Good
for Specialists

Use of sound analysis software to aid the identification of echolocation and social calls of bats has grown significantly in the last few years. The book covers topics such as the properties of sound; how bats use sound; bat detection methods; recording devices; analysis software; recording techniques and call analysis are covered, with details information on distribution and behaviour of each species found in the British Isles.

It is, however, the detailed information on echolocation and social calls described in the context of the different technologies employed to record them – heterodyne, frequency division and time expansion – that makes this book an essential part of the reference library of all researchers, consultants and bat group workers. Sonograms for each species, displayed in Bat Sound and Analook, highlight the variation of calls in different environments and circumstances, and it is pointed out that identifying a call to a particular species is not always possible.

In this practical guide Jon Russ, Sandie Sowler, Phil Briggs and contributing authors present the latest data in a clear and concise manner.



You might also like:

Biodiversity for Low and Zero Carbon Buildings: A Technical Guide for New Builds by Carol Williams (ISBN: 1859463533; RRP £25) A second edition of this book is due out in June 2013.

Ecological and behavioural methods for the study of bats by Thomas H. Kunz & Stuart Parsons (ISBN: 0801891477; RRP £54.50).

Bat Loves the Night

by Nicola Davies

ISBN: 1406312754; RRP £5.99

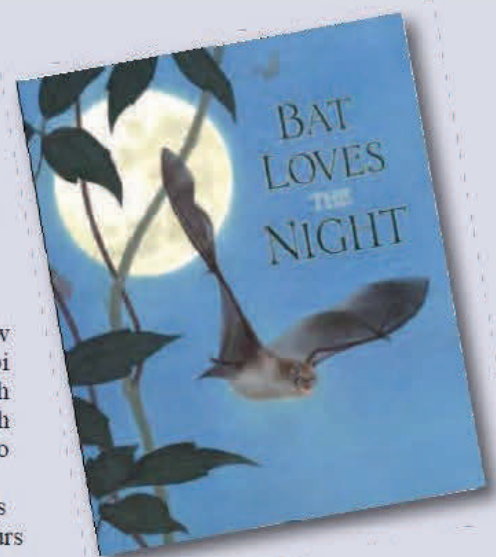
Good
for Children

This book is an absolute delight, a joy to read or simply to look at the pictures. Anne Youngman, BCT's Scottish Officer, uses it at work (with school groups/brownies, etc.) but also has a copy at home for any visiting young children and has bought several copies as gifts (her granddaughters enjoying sharing this book as much as Anne does).

The story is factual and correctly describes what bats do, how they hunt, how mothers look after babies, etc. It can be read as a simple story (following the bi text) or used as a starting point for finding out more about bats (by including the smaller text and the helpful references at the back). The book is perfect as both short story shared with a child or for older children (up to age 10) who want to read it on their own and find out more.

An outstanding feature of the book is its beautiful illustrations. The artwork is accurate (the bat, moth and flowers are perfect) and the use of soft, gentle colours gives the air of a warm summers night.

It would be great for any child already interested in bats or nature and for children a little afraid as the lovely illustrations would show bats in a loveable non-threatening light.



You might also like:

Stellaluna by Janell Cannon (ISBN: 0152062874; RRP £4.99). **Bats (Usborne Beginners)** by Megan Cullis (ISBN: 0746099657; RRP £5.00)

Little Bat Finger Puppet Book by Klaartje van der Put (ISBN: 0811875148; RRP £4.99)