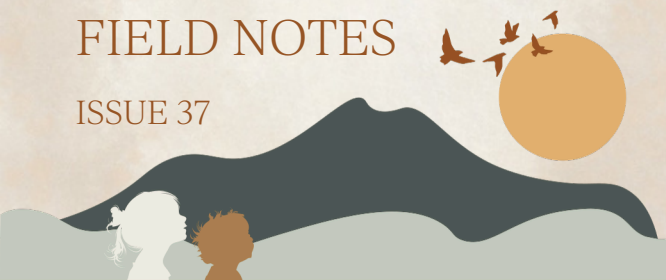


Nat Theo Club

FIELD NOTES

ISSUE 37



Little Brown Bat

MAMMAL

HABITAT

Ranges across North America including into Alaska and Canada, and down to Mexico. Lives well in wooded areas and roosts in many different places including tree hollows, rock crevices, attics, and under bridges. They eat mainly water insects, moths, and mosquitos.

FUN FACTS

Bats are the only flying mammal. Unlike birds, a bat's bones go to the tip of their wing, which is one reason they are excellent flyers. Bats pollinate plants, spread seeds, and control pests, making them great gardeners and an important part of God's creation.



HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A CREATURE DO SOMETHING IT ISN'T GREAT AT?

Bats are not known for swimming, but that's exactly what I found one doing yesterday. My family and I were sitting by a pond when we watched a little brown bat (that is its actual species name) fly over the pond and land in a bush. We walked over to see it, but it had fallen from the bush into the pond, and a duck was pecking at it. The bat awkwardly swam away from the duck back to shore. It was pretty wet and unable to fly. Without touching the bat, I carefully scooped it into a hat (pictured in the bottom left). We let it dry off for a few minutes and watched as it cleaned itself, then we released it in a dry, quiet, and safe area. Although I was glad the bat was able to get out of the water, it was very strange seeing it swim. God designed creatures with specific strengths and abilities. What is a strength God gave to cats? How about horses? What about birds? Bats are excellent flyers. If you have not yet, listen to our bat podcast episodes (39 and 40). God also gave bats the strength of echolocation, or locating food using sound. And although bats are not strong swimmers, it appears they can get around in the water when their safety depends on it!

What strengths and abilities has God given you? God created you wonderfully with unique talents, and you can work to grow those skills for His glory. 1 Peter 4:10 says, "Each of you has received a gift to serve others. Be good servants of God's various gifts of grace." Also, sometimes, we might need to do things we don't think we are very good at, like a swimming bat. God will give you exactly what you need. 2 Corinthians 12:9 says, "My grace is enough for you. When you are weak, my power is made perfect in you." What is one thing you don't feel good at and want to ask God to help you grow in? What is one strength God has given you that you can use to serve others?

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