

# Bats

Why hang upside-down to rest? From this position, in elevated locations, bats can drop and launch quickly into flight

**Learn more!**

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Mammals of Australia,  
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[www.ausbats.org.au](http://www.ausbats.org.au)

BATS ARE  
THE ONLY  
MAMMALS  
CAPABLE OF  
TRUE FLIGHT.



## Bare-backed fruit bat

*Dobsonia magna*

### DESCRIPTION

Head-body length: 212mm; wingspan: 1010mm; tail: 337mm; forearm: 148.8mm; weight: 425g

### DISTRIBUTION

QLD from Cooktown to Cape York and Torres Strait. One individual recorded from Chillagoe. Primary Australian population appears centered around Iron Range and McIlwraith Range in north Queensland.



### SOME ESSENTIALS

This large, distinctive fruit bat differs from other megabats in its wing arrangement. The furless wings join along the midline of the back rather than along the sides of the body, giving the impression of a hairless back.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The unusual wing shape gives this bat a characteristic sound in flight – a hollow ‘pock-pock-pock’.

### LEND A HAND

Encourage active research on this threatened species.



## Christmas Island pipistrelle

*Pipistrellus murrayi*

### DESCRIPTION

Head-body length: 34mm; tail: 34mm; forearm: 31mm; wingspan: 220mm; weight: 3.3g

### DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to Christmas Island.



### SOME ESSENTIALS

The only insectivorous bat on CI. Population has declined dramatically in the last 20 years. Status listed as Critically Endangered, but it is believed the species went extinct in August 2009.

### DID YOU KNOW?

In September, the Australian government announced attempts to capture the remaining bats for a captive breeding program had failed. Rescue efforts were too late despite fervent lobbying from bat experts, scientists and advocates worldwide.

### LEND A HAND

Request the federal government take action to ensure that no further threatened species on Christmas Island suffer the fate of the pipistrelle.



## South-eastern long-eared bat

*Nyctophilus corbeni*

### DESCRIPTION

Head-body length: 62mm; tail: 42mm; forearm: 45mm; weight: 15.3g

### DISTRIBUTION

QLD, NSW, VIC, SA. Mostly restricted to the Murray-Darling Basin and western slopes of the Great Dividing Range.



### SOME ESSENTIALS

Very manoeuvrable in flight. Ability to change direction quickly and often aids in capturing prey.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Until recently this species was thought to be *Nyctophilus timoriensis* which comprises more than one species. With recognition as a separate species, it was formally named *N. corbeni*.

### LEND A HAND

Encourage conservation of live forest and woodland trees with hollows which are important roosting sites for these bats.



## Orange leaf-nosed bat

*Rhynonictes aurantius*

### DESCRIPTION

Head-body length: 50mm; tail: 25mm; forearm: 48mm; weight: 8.4g

Distinctive, elaborate, rounded and scalloped nose-leaf. Bright orange fur on back appears dark because of brownish tips to the fur. Other colour forms include fawn, lemon and pale.

### DISTRIBUTION

North-west QLD through the Top End and into Kimberley. Relict population in Pilbara region.



### SOME ESSENTIALS

Depends on caves (and old mines) with very hot and humid roost sites (28°-32°C and 96-100 percent humidity).

### DID YOU KNOW?

Only bat genus endemic to Australia, this species is estimated to be more than five million years old.

### LEND A HAND

Do not enter old mines where bats are roosting, as they are very sensitive to human disturbance.



## Gould's wattled bat

*Chalinolobus gouldii*

### DESCRIPTION

Head-body length: 52.4mm; tail: 40.1mm; forearm: 41.2mm; wingspan: 295mm; weight: 13.8g

### DISTRIBUTION

Found in almost all areas of mainland Australia (except Cape York and Nullabor plain) and Tasmania.



### SOME ESSENTIALS

Roosts in tree hollows or hollow river red gum and cyprus pine branches. Males are solitary but females have been found to roost in colonies of 40 or more. Insectivorous.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Researchers report this species murmurs when held. Please do not try holding one yourself.

### LEND A HAND

Should you wish to relocate bats, contact your local wildlife care group for a qualified bat handler.



## Spectacled flying fox

*Pteropus conspicillatus*

### DESCRIPTION

Head-body length: 233mm; forearm: 167mm; weight: ♀570g, ♂626g

### DISTRIBUTION

North QLD, discontinuous from Hinchinbrook Island up through Cape York.



### SOME ESSENTIALS

Roost in large camps comprising hundreds to thousands of individuals, mostly in tall rainforests, mangroves, paperbark, eucalypt and tall acacias.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Paralysis tick claims thousands of lives of this threatened animal yearly.

### LEND A HAND

Contact Tolga Bat Hospital to help support ongoing education and research efforts ([www.tolgabathospital.org](http://www.tolgabathospital.org)).