



ODFW's mission is to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations.

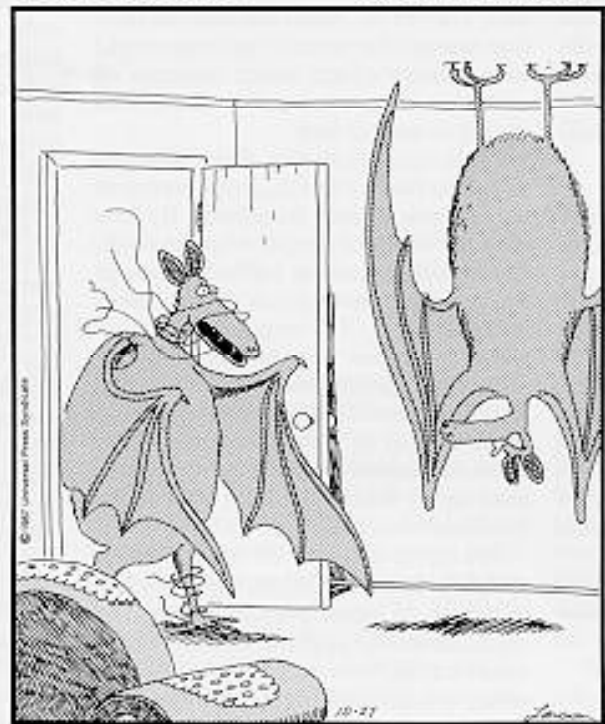
West Multnomah SWCD
Butterflies, Bats and Bees, Oh My!
May 2010

Bats!

Truth
or
Myth?

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"Crimony! ... I must've been tangled in some lady's hair for more than two hours!"

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Fun bat trivia to share with friends at parties!

- Contrary to popular myths, bats are not blind, do not become entangled in human hair, and seldom transmit disease

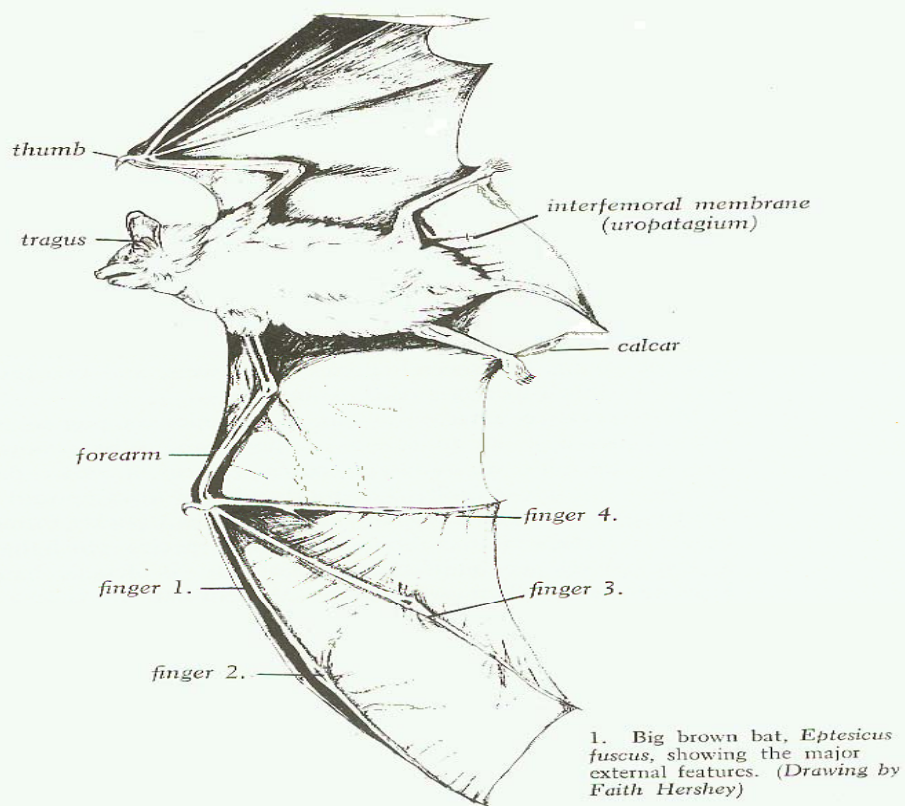


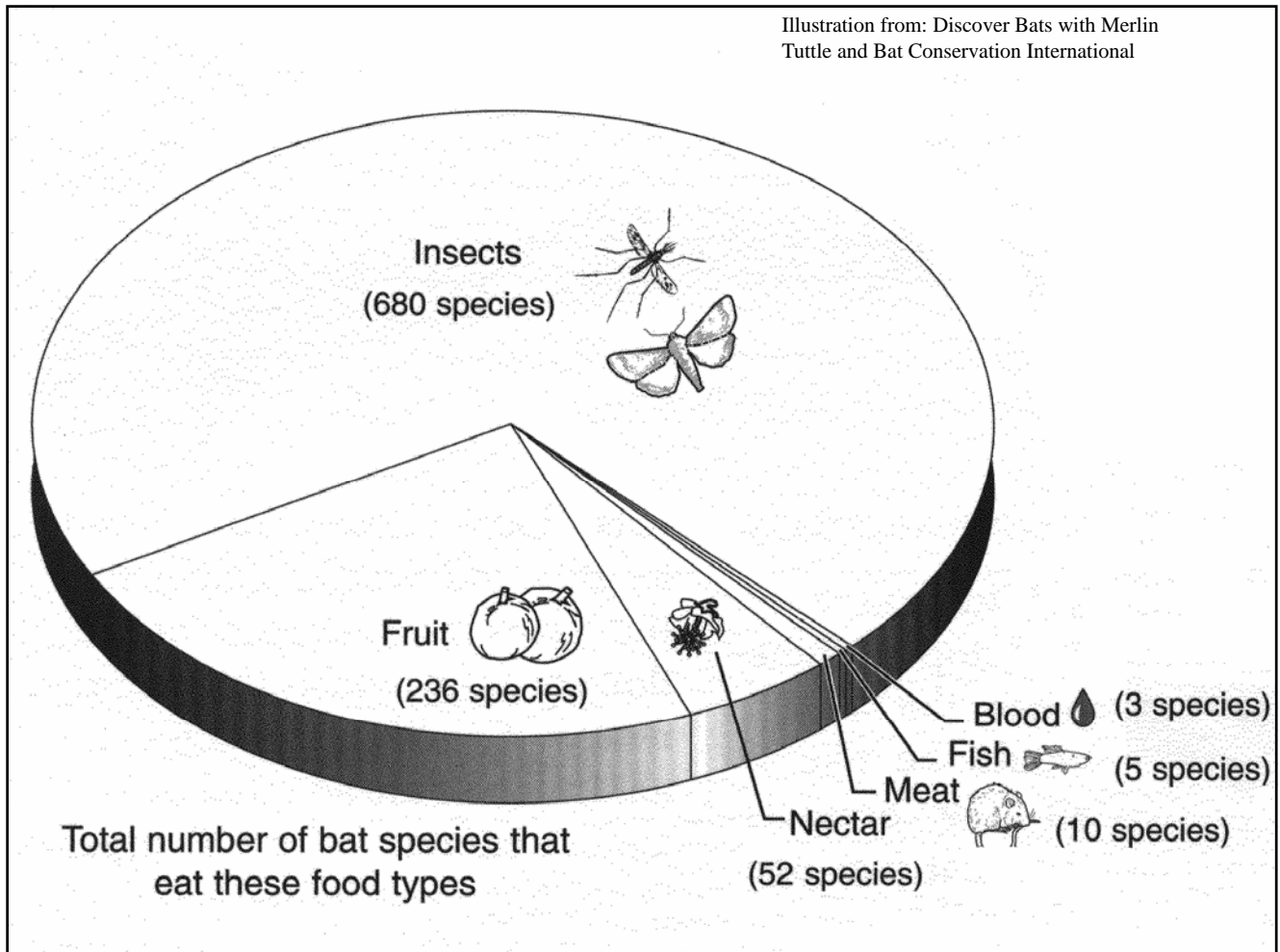
Bat Facts

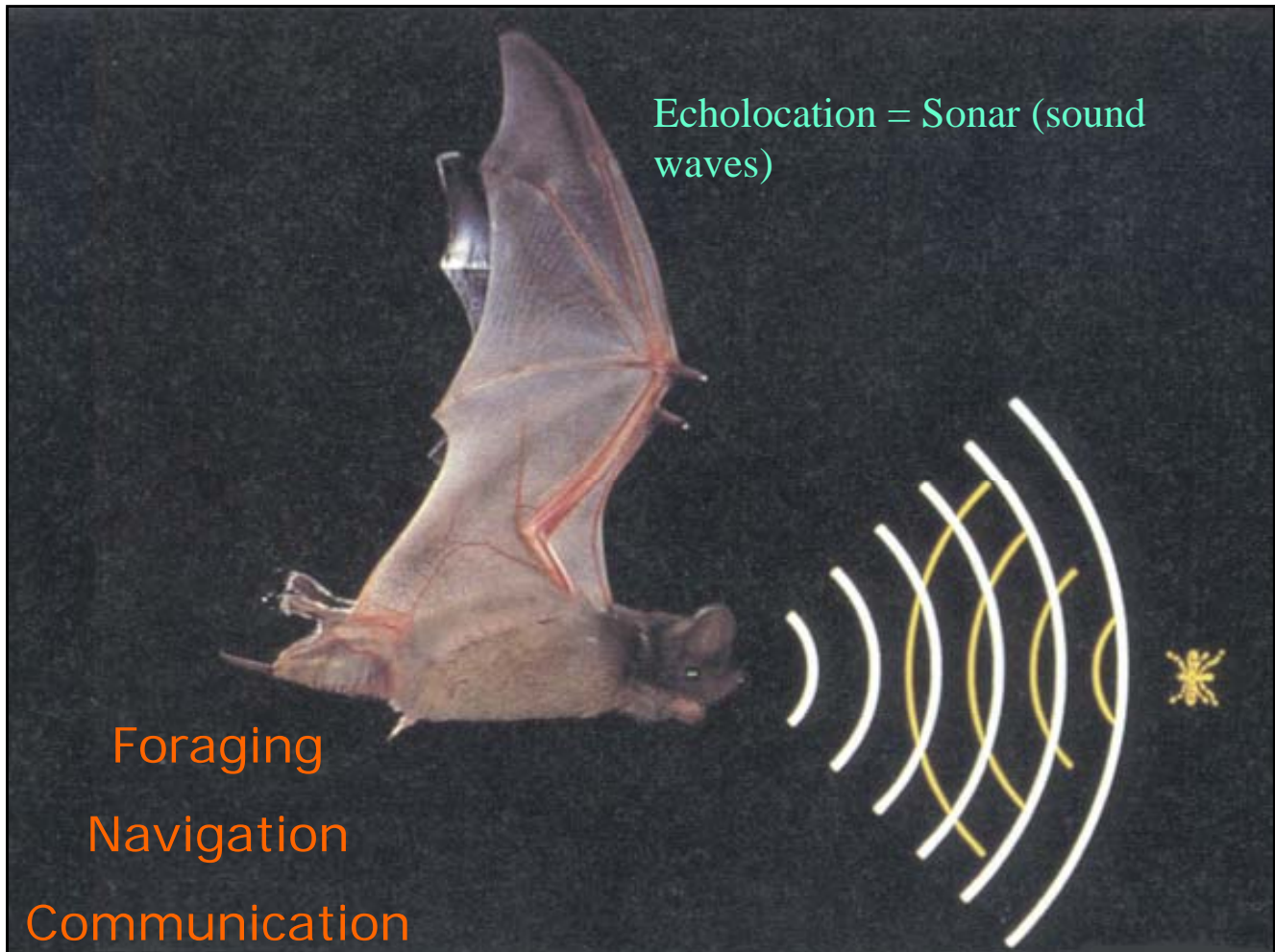
- Order ***Chiroptera*** means “winged hand”
- Long fur
- Unique facial features
- Use echolocation
- Sharp teeth
- Long lived (35+ years)
- Usually one pup per year



Basic Bat Anatomy







More Bat Facts

- **Benefits of Bats:** 600 to 1200 mosquito sized insects consumed per hour; Guano
- **Disease**
 - rabies
 - histoplasmosis
 - parasites



Bats – Why Care?



- **Ecologically important**
 - Consumers & Producers
 - Biological Indicators (sensitive to habitat loss, chemicals, disease, and human activities)
- **On the decline**
 - 7 of 15 of Oregon's bats species are on Oregon's State Sensitive Species List



Hoary bat
(OCS)



Silver-haired bat
(SS, P, OCS)



Big brown bat



Townsend's big eared bat
(SS, P, OCS)



Western red bat



Fringed bat
(SS, P, OCS)



Long-legged bat
(SS, P, OCS)



Yuma myotis
(P)



California bat
(SS, OCS)



Little Brown bat



Long-eared bat
(SS,P)

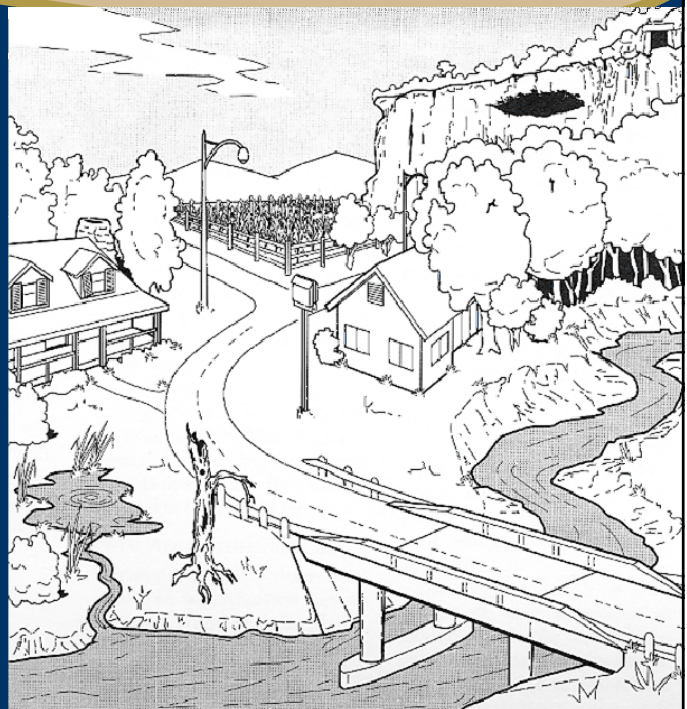
The Life of an Oregon Bat

- **Daytime:** sleeps in day roosts
- **Nighttime:** forages / rests in night roosts
- **Spring:**
 - emerge from hibernacula
 - move to summer areas
- **Summer:**
 - females congregate in maternal colonies
 - 1-2 babies born June/July; babies fly in ~5 weeks
- **Autumn:**
 - bats build up fat reserves for winter
 - some bats migrate while others hibernate
 - breeding occurs
- **Winter:**
 - In hibernation in safe and suitable locations



Roost Locations

- Our Houses and/or out-buildings
- Bridges
- Caves & Mines
- Rock piles and wood piles
- Large logs on the ground
- Snags and hollow trees
- Bat Boxes

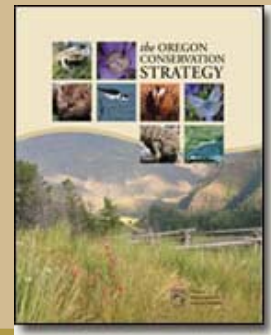


Bats on the Decline

- **Susceptible to unnatural predators**
 - cats and dogs, invasive species
- **Susceptible to human activities**
 - disturbance of roost sites
 - forest/tree management practice
 - pesticides
 - draining wetlands
 - wind energy facilities
 - fences, cars, etc.



The Oregon Conservation Strategy



- **Strategy Species:** California myotis, hoary bat, long-legged myotis, silver-haired bat, Townsend's big-eared bat
- **Special Needs:** forest habitat, riparian habitat; hollow trees and large snags, bridges, caves, mines.
- **Limiting Factors:** Habitat loss; Reduction of large snags & hollow trees; Disturbance; some appear to have natural patchy distribution / low populations.
- **Data Gaps:** Seasonal movements, winter roost locations; microclimate conditions; distribution and trends; species distinction.
- **Conservation Actions:** Maintain and create habitat (e.g., snags). Minimize human disturbance (e.g., project timing)

Applicable Wildlife Law

- ORS 498.002 Wildlife is State property
- ORS 498.012 Taking wildlife causing damage, posing public health risk or that is public nuisance
 - Damage: loss of or harm inflicted on land, livestock or agricultural or forest crops
 - Public Nuisance: loss of or harm inflicted on gardens, ornamental plants, ornamental trees, pets, vehicles, boats, structures,, or other personal property
- OAR Div. 44 Protected Wildlife
- OAR Div. 44 Wildlife Rehabilitation

How We Can Help Bats

- Tell others about the values & benefits of bats
 - Consumers
 - Producers
 - Food web & nutrient cycling
- Attract Bats: food, water and roost sites
 - Protect / Enhance wetlands and streams
 - Limit use of pesticides
 - Leave dead and dying trees
 - Create piles of wood and rocks
 - Put up a bat box



How We Can Help Bats

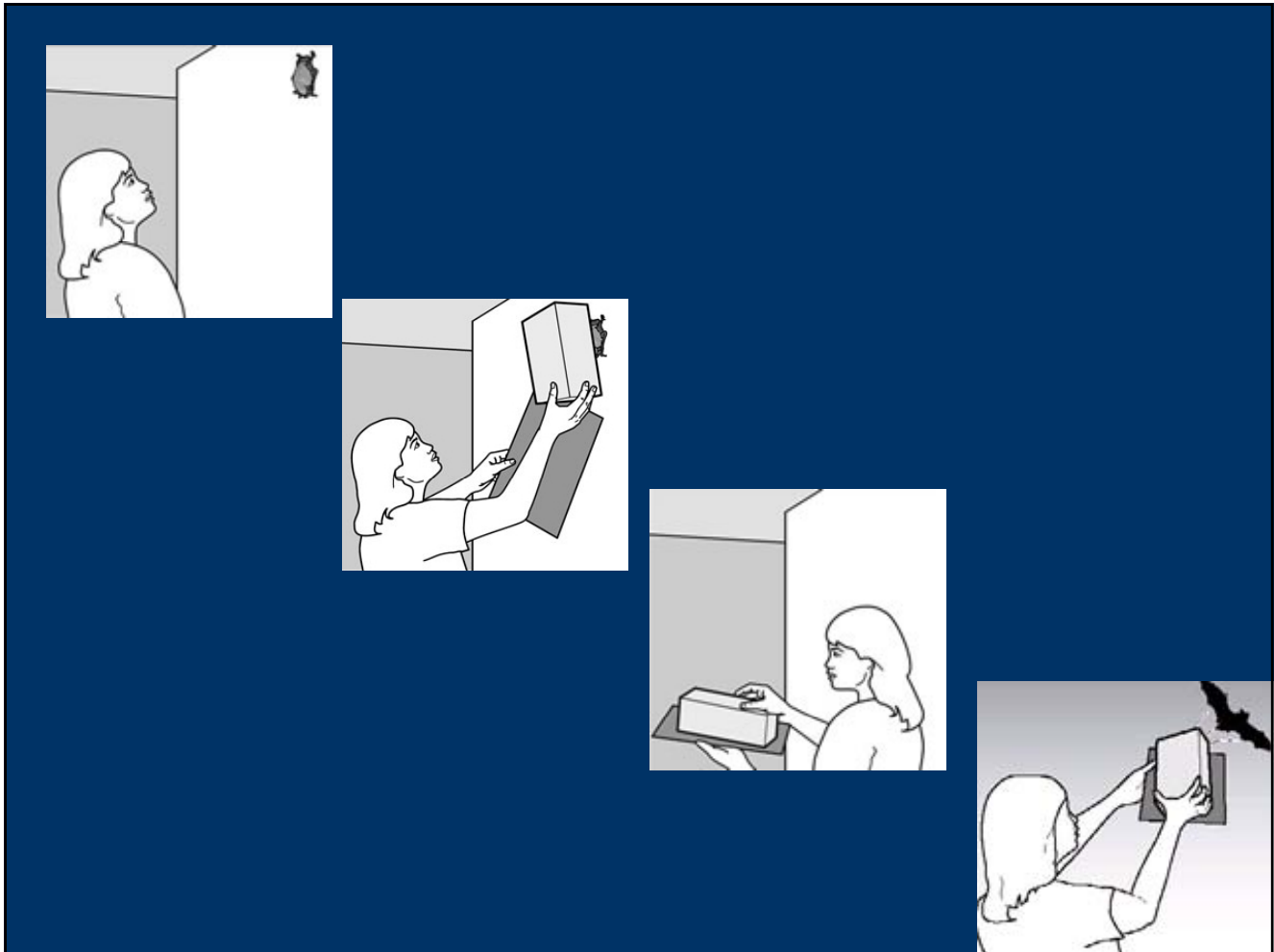
- **Protect bats**
 - Don't disturb roosting or hibernating bats
 - Time project activities with bats in mind
 - Keep cats inside
- **Prevent conflicts**
 - Prevent access
 - Vaccinate pets

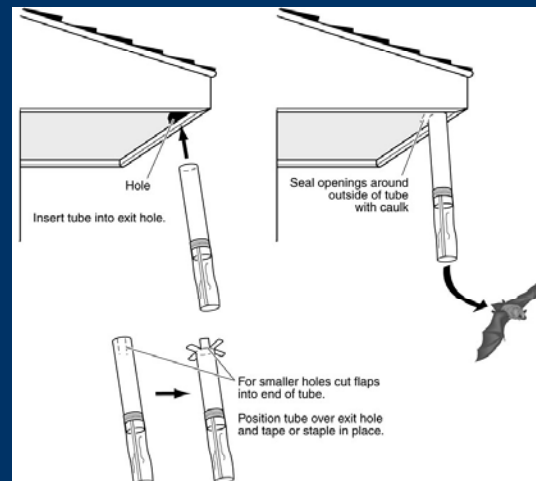
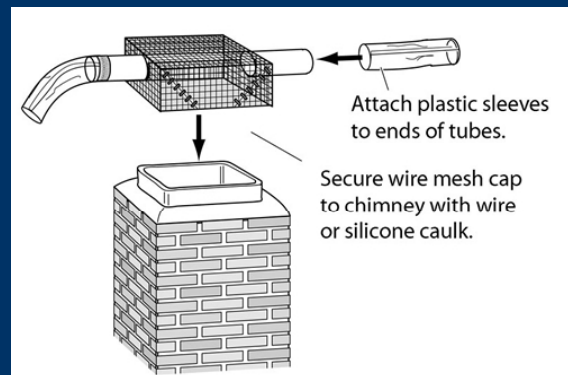
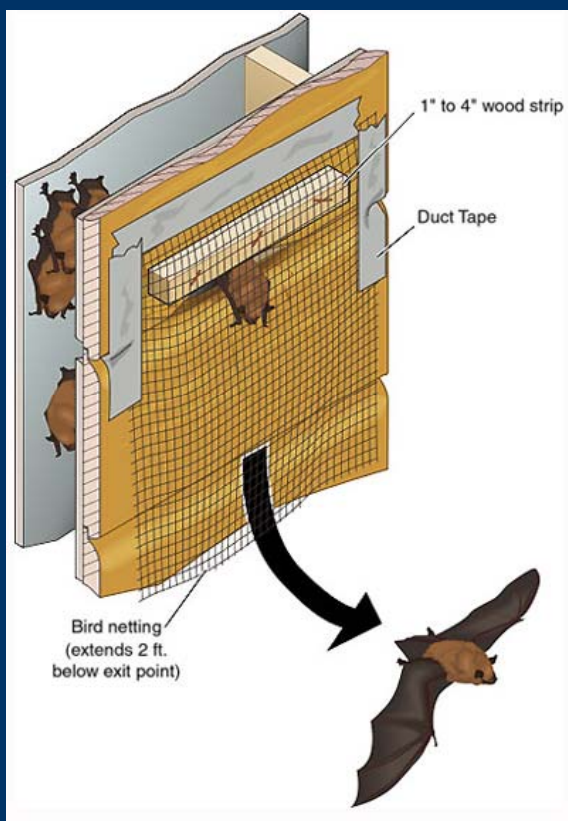


How We Can Help Bats

- If you do encounter a bat
 - Stay calm: avoid flailing your arms and screaming
- Bats in your living / work space
 - If no contact with person or pet, get bat out
- Do not handle bats (dead or alive)







Where to Learn More About Bats

- **Bat Conservation and Research**
 - Bat Conservation International
 - USFWS
 - Western Bat Working Group
 - ODFW
- **Public Health Concerns**
 - CDC
 - Oregon Dept. of Health

