



# Echoes From South Dakota

SOUTH DAKOTA BAT WORKING GROUP

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- 2010

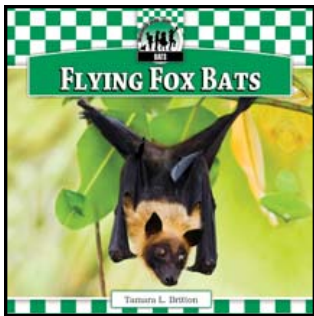
## CHECK OUT THE LIST INSIDE... Bat Books For Schools !

We need your help to identify remaining elementary schools in SD to put on the list to receive 12-volume sets of books on bats. Check on pages 6 and 7 for a complete listing of schools that have received books to date. Know of a school that's not listed? Send us the name and get them on the list!

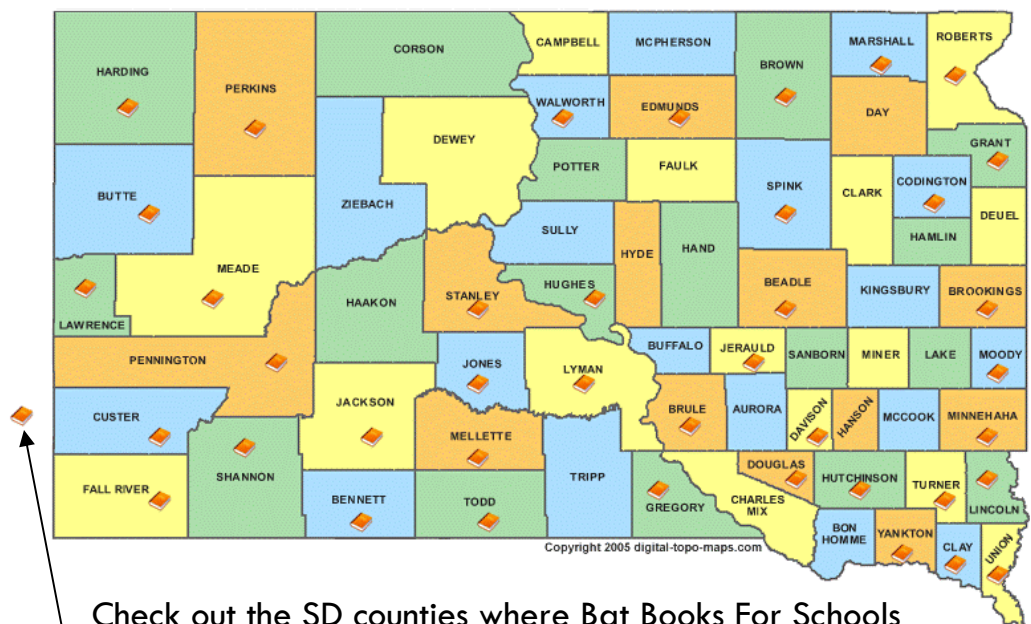
We have provided 105 sets of books to schools and libraries across the state! That's over 18,000 students with access to these books! Popular with students and teachers alike, the books are being used in grades 1st-6th. Some small schools use nearby public libraries for their students - we can provide such libraries with books as well.

### Inside this issue:

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Check out the list inside...



Check out the SD counties where Bat Books For Schools has provided schools / libraries with books!

(And one set in Newcastle, WY)

5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
BAT FESTIVAL  
2010



# 5TH ANNUAL BAT FESTIVAL...RE-CAP

If you were not able to attend this year's Bat Festival... here's some of what you missed -

The Festival was held on the 14th of August, in and around the Tatanka Theatre at Custer State Park in the southern Black Hills. Despite the cool temperature, this year's festival had a record attendance of around 200 people!



Shelly Deisch (right) a biologist with SDGFP presents a *Certificate of Appreciation* to David & Karen Papcke to recognize their participation in SDGFP's program to protect abandoned mines as bat habitat. The Papckes were also given a DVD and a book about bats in thanks.



Bats are delicious!



More Cookies!



The build-a-bat station was popular with the younger festival-goers.

# Echoes From South Dakota



Biologists and other bat enthusiasts spent the evening discussing bats and bat-related topics. Some of the bats roosting in the Tatanka Theatre made their second annual appearance by flying around inside the theatre allowing those attending to hear real-time echolocation on ultrasonic bat detectors.

Over 50 bats were counted emerging from the bat house next to the Tatanka Theatre.



Display boards helped cover bat-related topics.



T-shirts were popular this year as well.



All of the festival photos are courtesy of:

**Ron Fry**  
**Picture Perfect Photography**  
**Alliance, NE**



## SPECIES PROFILE: **NORTHERN MYOTIS** (*Myotis septentrionalis*)

The northern myotis is found across South Dakota and is one of the six *Myotis* species in our state.

Considered to be a medium-sized bat, the main distinguishing features of this species are its longer ear length (compared to similar species) and long, slender, pointed tragus.

\* (see photo below)

This species is considered to be a year-round resident although numbers found during winter hibernation surveys are not representative of numbers observed during the active season. One reason for this is likely owed to this species' preference for selecting cracks and crev-

ices as roosting locations in abandoned mines and caves. Tucked back into such locations, they are likely often missed during winter hibernation surveys. Identified hibernation sites used by this species in the Black Hills all have very high humidity (>90%).

As for the northern myotis that summer in the central and eastern portions of SD, it remains unknown where they go to hibernate.

Based upon recaptures of banded individuals, these bats appear to use the same roosts and foraging sites between years. In the Black Hills, seven recaptures of banded juveniles have occurred at night

roosts where the bats were first banded. Time between recaptures ranged from 21 days to almost 10 years!

Only two maternity/nursery roosts have been identified for this species in SD. Both were located in buildings. The first of these was located near Sturgis and was comprised of approximately 75 bats (including juveniles) with one banded female. While the band could not be read, the closest location for a banding of this sex and species was over 8 miles away.

This observation helps to demonstrate the importance of protecting or managing maternity roosts.

Females routinely travel from wider areas to form maternity roosts. Destruction of such roosts can have wider implications for the distribution of a species.

The second identified maternity roost was smaller (approx. 10 bats) and located in Wall.

When captured during mist-netting at foraging sites, this species can be characterized as feisty. It routinely vocalizes its displeasure continuously once netted. Upon release, before taking off to resume their nightly foraging, they often turn, before launching from their captor's gloved hand and offer one last attempt at a bite as if to say, "You better watch it, buster!"

\***The tragus, a feature used in the identification of the northern myotis is clearly visible in this photo.**

**Elbow to wrist averages about 36mm for this species.**



Photo by Kristen Page

# Echoes From South Dakota

## THIRSTY BATS

### Ever Wonder How Bats Drink?

Bats routinely drink on the wing, flying down low over the surface of water and skimming a drink off the surface. Bats in SD have been observed drinking at all manner of sites, including stock tanks, creeks/rivers/lakes, birdbaths, swimming pools, and road ruts with standing water.

It is not unusual to see bats (particularly young of the year) fly too low and end up in the water. Occasionally spectacular tumbles end with embarrassed bats having to swim to shore, find something tall enough to climb, and dive off to get airborne again. Adept swimmers, they rely on the batstroke to get them to shore (sorry, couldn't resist).

For some remarkable footage of bats drinking, visit the following website. It was taken as part of research into how bats find and recognize water. The footage is part of a study by Stefan Greifgreif and Björn Siemers that appears in *Nature Communications*. (A link to their study can be found at the video site.) Click on or paste the link below into your browser.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZxLUNHEmPw>



## ASK A BAT...

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY READERS ON BAT-RELATED TOPICS

In keeping with the wet theme, a reader writes: **I heard there are bats that eat fish, is this true?**

While most of the bats in the world feed exclusively on insects, there are some exceptions. One of these exceptions is the greater fishing bat (*Noctilio leporinus*) also known as the Bulldog Bat. (Spanish name is Murcielago Pescador.) Found in Central and South America, this bat flies low over the surface of water and with its large feet and long hind-limbs, snatches up small fish. (These fish can be up to 3 inches in length and as deep as an inch below the surface). Also feeding on insects, these bats use their echolocation to identify disturbances on the water's surface to find their prey.

To watch a video of a fishing bat in action, visit:

[http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/player/animals/mammals-animals/bats/bat\\_fishing.html](http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/player/animals/mammals-animals/bats/bat_fishing.html)

Want more information? Have another question? Email your question to ASK A BAT - send it to [joeltigner@gmail.com](mailto:joeltigner@gmail.com) and it will get relayed to someone that can provide you an answer.



# BAT BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS UPDATE



All 61 sets of books purchased with SDGFP Wildlife Diversity Program's grant award have been distributed to schools and libraries across the state. As a result of the **Bat Books For Schools** Project, over 18,000 students now have access to these educational books about bats. To date here in SD, 105 sets of books have been distributed in 40 counties. Check the following school list to see if you've got yours!

- Aberdeen, SD** Brown County
  - May Overby (Batworks, LLC)
  - Simmons Elem. (Batworks, LLC)
  - O.M. Tiffany (Batworks, LLC)
  - C.C. Lee Elem. (Batworks, LLC)
  - Lincoln Elem. (Batworks, LLC)
- Alcester, SD** Union County
  - Hudson Elem. (SDGFP)
- Batesland, SD** Shannon County
  - Batesland (Batworks, LLC)
- Belle Fourche, SD** Butte County
  - South Park . (ANON)
- Blackhawk, SD** Meade County
  - Blackhawk (SDGFP)
- Box Elder, SD** Pennington County
  - Vandenberg (Paul & Julie Schipke)
- Britton, SD** Marshall County
  - Britton Elem. (SDGFP)
- Brookings, SD** Brookings County
  - Central Elem. (Scott Pedersen)
  - Hillcrest Elem. (Scott Pedersen)
  - Medary Elem (Scott Pedersen)
- Buffalo, SD** Harding County
  - Buffalo Elem. (Batworks, LLC)
- Castlewood, SD** Hamlin County
  - Castlewood (SDGFP)
- Chamberlain, SD** Brule County
  - Chamberlain (SDGFP)
- Corsica, SD** Douglas County
  - Corsica Public (SDGFP)
- Custer, SD** Custer County
  - Custer Annex (Brad Phillips)
- Edgemont, SD** Fall River County
  - Edgemont Elem. (SDGFP)
- Faith, SD** Meade County
  - Faith Public (SDGFP)
- Flandreau, SD** Moody County
  - Flandreau Elem. (SDGFP)
- Freeman, SD** Hutchinson County
  - Freeman Elem. (SDGFP)
- Ft. Pierre, SD** Stanley County
  - Ft. Pierre Elem. (SDGFP)
- Gregory, SD** Gregory County
  - Gregory Elem. (SDGFP)
- Groton, SD** Brown County
  - Groton Elem. (SDGFP)
- Hermosa, SD** Shannon County
  - Red Shirt Table (Batworks, LLC)
- Hill City, SD** Pennington County
  - Hill City Elem. (Paha Sapa Grotto)
- Hot Springs, SD** Fall River County
  - Hot Springs (SDGFP)
- Humboldt, SD** Minnehaha County
  - West Central (Batworks, LLC)
- Huron, SD** Beadle County
  - Buchanan Elem. (Friends Group Maga Ta-Hohpi [WPA])
  - Holy Trinity (Friends Group Maga Ta-Hohpi [WPA])
  - James Valley (Friends Group Maga Ta-Hohpi [WPA])
  - Jefferson Elem. (Friends Group Maga Ta-Hohpi [WPA])
  - Madison Elem. (Friends Group Maga Ta-Hohpi [WPA])
  - Washington (Friends Group Maga Ta-Hohpi [WPA])
- Ipswich, SD** Edmunds County
  - Ipswich Elem. (SDGFP)
- Kadoka, SD** Jackson County
  - Kadoka Elem. (SDGFP)
  - Long Valley (SDGFP)
- Kimball, SD** Brule County
  - Kimball Elem. (SDGFP)
  - Grass Ranch (SDGFP)
- Kyle, SD** Shannon County
  - OLC Comm Lib. (SDGFP)
- Lead-Deadwood** Lawrence County
  - Lead-Deadwd (Batworks, LLC)

**(THOSE LISTED IN PARENTHESES ARE THE SPONSORS)**

**Lemmon, SD** Perkins County  
Lemmon (SDGFP)

**Lenox, SD** Lincoln County  
Lennox Elem. (SDGFP)  
Worthing Elem. (SDGFP)  
Chancellor Elem.(SDGFP)

**Martin, SD** Bennett County  
Bennett Co. (SDGFP)

**Milbank, SD** Grant County  
Koch Elem. (Alex & Camyrn Popowski)

**Mission, SD** Todd County  
North Elem. (SDGFP)

**Mitchell, SD** Davison County  
G. Belle Rogers (SDGFP)  
Longfellow (SDGFP)  
L.B. Williams (SDGFP)

**Mobridge, SD** Walworth County  
Beadle Elem. (SDGFP)

**Murdo, SD** Jones County  
Jones County (SDGFP)

**Parker, SD** Turner County  
Parker Elem. (SDGFP)

**Pierre, SD** Hughes County  
St. Joseph's (Eileen Dowd Stukel)  
Buchanan Elem. (Batworks, LLC)  
Jefferson Elem. (Batworks, LLC)  
McKinley Elem. (Batworks, LLC)  
Washington (Batworks, LLC)  
Pierre Indian LC (SDGFP)

**Pine Ridge, SD** Shannon County  
Wolf Creek (Batworks, LLC)

**Porcupine, SD** Shannon County  
Lady of Lourdes (Bob & Paula DeMerssman)  
Rockyford Elem. (Batworks, LLC)

**Presho, SD** Lyman County  
Presho Elem. (SDGFP)

**Rapid City, SD** Pennington County  
Horace Mann (SDGFP)  
South Canyon (SDGFP)  
Valley View (SDGFP)  
Robbinsdale (SDGFP)  
Rapid Valley (SDGFP)  
South Park (Penny Island)  
Gen. Beadle (Jocelyn Baker)  
Canyon Lake (Batworks, LLC)  
Pinedale Elem. (Batworks, LLC)  
Corral Drive (Batworks, LLC)

**Rapid City, continued**  
Knollwood Elem.(ANON)  
Meadowbrook (ANON)

**Redfield, SD** Spink County  
Redfield Elem. (Batworks, LLC)

**Roscoe, SD** Edmunds County  
Edmunds Cent. ( Silka Kempema)

**Rosebud, SD** Todd County  
Rosebud Elem. (SDGFP)

**Sioux Falls, SD** Minnehaha County  
All City (SDGFP)  
Lowell MST (SDGFP)  
John Harris (SDGFP)  
Hayward Elem. (Batworks, LLC)

**Sisseton, SD** Roberts County  
Westside Elem. (SDGFP)  
New Effington (SDGFP)

**Spearfish, SD** Lawrence County  
East Elem. (P. Gillespie's 2008 Science Class)

**Sturgis, SD** Meade County  
Sturgis Library (Eileen Dowd Stukel)

**Vermillion, SD** Clay County  
Jolley Elem. (SDGFP)

**Volga, SD** Brookings County  
Sioux Valley (SDGFP)

**Wall, SD** Pennington County  
Wall Elem. (SDGFP)

**Warner, SD** Brown County  
Warner Elem. (SDGFP)

**Watertown, SD** Codington County  
Jefferson Elem. (SDGFP)  
Lincoln Elem. (SDGFP)  
McKinley Elem. (SDGFP)  
Mellete Elem. (SDGFP)  
Roosevelt Elem. (SDGFP)

**Wessington Springs, SD** Jerauld County  
Wess. Sprgs. (SDGFP)  
Sprg. Valley (SDGFP)

**Whitewood, SD** Lawrence County  
Whitewood (Paul & Julie Schipke)

**Yankton, SD** Yankton County  
Lincoln Elem. (SDGFP)  
Beadle Elem. (SDGFP)  
Stewart Elem. (SDGFP)  
Webster Eelm. (SDGFP)



**(THOSE LISTED IN PARENTHESES ARE THE SPONSORS)**

Visit us on the web!  
[www.sdbwg.org](http://www.sdbwg.org)



**SOUTH DAKOTA BAT WORKING GROUP**

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The purpose of the SD Bat Working Group is to work to protect bats and bat habitat through action, education, and cooperation with Federal, State, Tribal, and private landowners.

Our objectives are two-fold: to raise awareness about the role bats play in maintaining healthy ecosystems; and to work with public land managers and private landowners and provide alternatives that will reduce possible adverse affects to bats or bat habitat.

Everyone is welcome to become a member of the SD Bat Working Group!

The only requirement is an interest in bats and their conservation.

There are no membership dues, so it's priced right for everyone!

**Get Involved...because bats need friends.**

**BAT BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS**

**Your school not listed inside??**

**Email us the school's name,  
telephone number, and a contact...**

**AND WE'LL GET THEM ON THE  
WAITING LIST!**