

Bats: Nature's Pest Control

The Benefits of Bats



Hoary bat

A single bat can eat more than 1,000 insects in one night. Imagine how many mosquito bites and insect-carried diseases bats prevent! Their droppings are a natural plant fertilizer, and in some places bats even pollinate flowers.

All but one of California's 24 bat species eat insects. The Mexican long-tongued bat, a rare visitor to California, eats nectar and pollen.

Bats Are Nighttime Hunters



Big brown bat

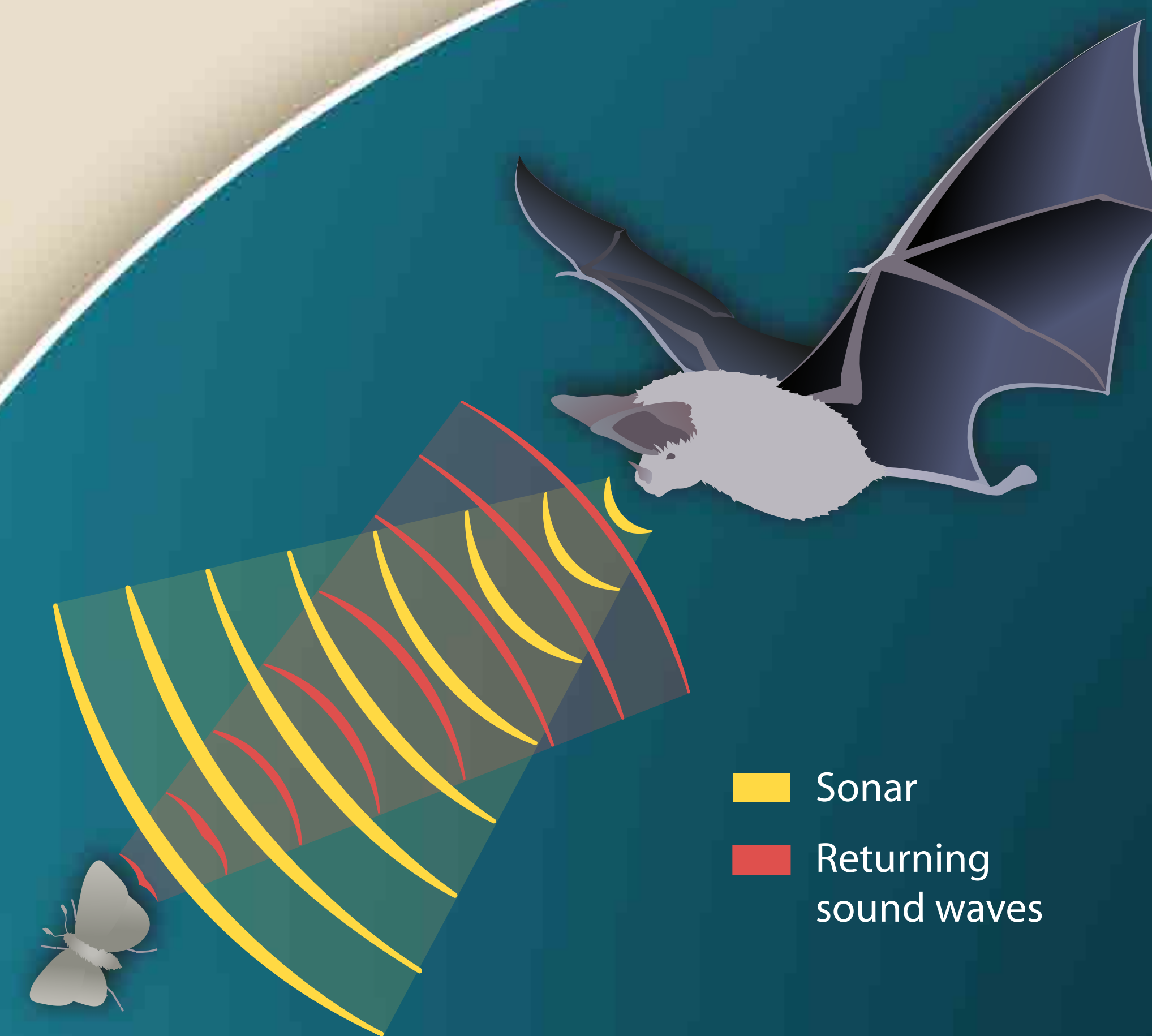
Bats are nocturnal, resting all day in caves, buildings and other quiet places.

Don't fall prey to bat myths: bats are not interested in bothering humans, and the threat of rabies is minimal.



Pallid bats

Bats play a vital role in balancing our ecosystem.



Bats use their excellent hearing to locate food.

They emit a sound that bounces off of everything in their path. This informs them precisely where obstacles and prey are, down to the tiniest hair. This **echolocation** is similar to the way submarines navigate.

