

RECORDINGS OF BAT SOUNDS

UNITED STATES

DOC-RBB-US1 United States 1994

Bats in the Cave

Bat Sounds – Recorded in Caves

Prod: Jerry Gilbert

Prod. Co: Bainbridge Records

Rec. Eng: Jerry Gilbert

Time: 0:28

1. CD: DEMONS & DEMENTIA – LIVING
SOUND EFFECTS – VOL. 8
Bainbridge (?) (Tk 41)

2. Compilation Boxed Set CD: LIVING SOUND EFFECTS – VOL. 5-8
Bainbridge 402 (4XCDs) (Disc 4 – Tk 41)

Notes: This bat recording was originally on volume 8 of the series.
The recording has not been heard.

Ref: Living Sound Effects – Vol. 8 CD, CDUniverse
Living Sound Effects – Vol. 5-8 CD, Allmusic



DOC-RBB-US2 United States 1999

Carlsbad Caverns - New Mexico –

Interior Sounds

Entrance to Bat Rookery

Bats Leaving Main Entrance

Bats Returning

Bat Sounds – Recorded in Caves

Prod. Co: Earth Ear; Santa Fe, NM

Rec. Eng: David Dunn

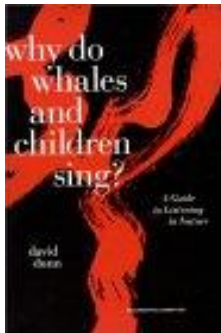
Liner Notes: (96-page book) Pages 67-72

Time: (Tk 29) 1:08; (Tk 30) 1:34; (Tk 31) 1:25;
& (Tk 32) 1:35

CD: WHY DO WHALES AND CHILDREN SING?

Label: Earth Ear (No Catalog No.) (Tks 29 to 32)

Notes: A charming book and CD introducing people to sounds in nature, which is “about coming to a better understanding of how we listen to things.” The principal species of bats that roost in Carlsbad Caverns are the Mexican free-tail bats (*Tadarida Mexicana*), which have now, for some reason, been renamed by the Park, Brazilian free-tail bats. “Two other species have also been found regularly in Carlsbad Cavern - cave myotis and fringed myotis bats. They typically roost in a different part of the cave and their exit flight is typically later in the evening than that of the brazilian free-tailed bats.” (Anon. 2015a)



INTERIOR SOUNDS – Recorded deep inside the cave, we hear the sound of water drops near and far, intermittent and regular. Also a sort of rushing sound which is the bat colony. The short text that accompanies this selection says “only drips of water are audible and sometimes the creaking of the cave walls.” Well, cave walls don’t creak.

ENTRANCE TO BAT ROOKERY – The sound of water drops carries over into this selection and we start to gradually hear the fluttering of bat wings in the cave. Dunn writes – “... we can hear the wing motion of the bats as they fly through the darkness above my head. We can barely discern the sounds of their high frequency chirps. Those sounds are mostly out of the range of our hearing but once in awhile the pitch descends just into the upper limit of what we can distinguish from the rushing sounds of flight.”

BATS LEAVING MAIN ENTRANCE – Here the sound of bat wings builds and holds steady. The bat count in 2005 was estimated at nearly 800,000. (Anon. 2015) “We can hear the sound of this mass flight as an immense disruption of air, through which the bats speed with each turn of the ascending spiral.”

BATS RETURNING – The sounds of the massive bat flight continues into this selection and then tapers somewhat and finally fades out. It sounds like a simple continuation of track 31 and not a separate recording as it would have to be since the return bats flight is not as massive. “The



outflight can last up to three hours, depending on a variety of factors, including the number of bats in the colony. Bats can begin returning at any time, particularly when they have pups to nurse (in which case they typically head out to feed again before morning). The number of bats returning usually peaks around dawn.” (Anon. 2015b) Dunn’s text reads – “They return individually, flying straight into the cave entrance at over sixty (sic) miles per hour. The whirring sounds in this example are made by the single bats as they come in high and dive in quickly with half-folded wings. You can just make out the distant sound of their echolocation chirps (sic) as they hit the cave’s interior darkness.” In reality, individual bats may reach speeds of 25 mph (40 km/h) or more, not 60 mph. The chirps you hear may be the bats, but the frequency range of their echolocation “is between 49 and 70 kHz, and can be between 25 and 40 kHz if something crosses their path while in flight.” (Anon. 2015c) The human range is commonly given as 20 to 20,000 Hz, well below the bat’s echolocation sounds.

Regarding recording sounds in nature, Dunn writes – “... one of the most important things to be aware of is how your presence affects what you are listening to. Proximity is a critical determinant of what you can record... The more the microphone’s reach, however, the less neutral or accurate is the recording of the sound. Microphone design and basic physics determine that the more directional a microphone is, and therefore more able to pickup sounds from a distant source, the less it is capable of responding to the full range of sound in the environment.”

Ref: Anon. 2015a, Bats, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov)

Anon. 2015b, Brazilian Free-tail Bat Outflight, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov)

Anon. 2015c, Mexican free-tailed Bat, Data, [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org)

Bailey, Vernon 1925, Bats of the Carlsbad Caverns, *National Geographic*, v; 48, n. 3, Sept. 1925, p. 321-330

Bailey, Vernon 1928, *Animal Life of the Carlsbad Caverns*, Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 195p.

Baker, James K. 1979, *What about Bats?*, Carlsbad Cavern Natural History Association, Carlsbad, NM, 60p.

Dunn, David 1999, *Why Do Whales and Children Sing?*, Earth Ear, p. 15, 22, 67-72, 90-91, & 96

Langley, Liz 2014, 6 Bat Myths Busted, National Geographic, [news.nationalgeographic](https://www.nationalgeographic.com)

Why Do Whales and Children Sing? CD, [CDBaby](https://www.cdbaby.com)

Why Do Whales and Children Sing? A Guide to Listening to Nature, [earthear](https://www.earthear.com)

DOC-RBB-US3 United States 1964

Vampire Bats

Bat Sounds

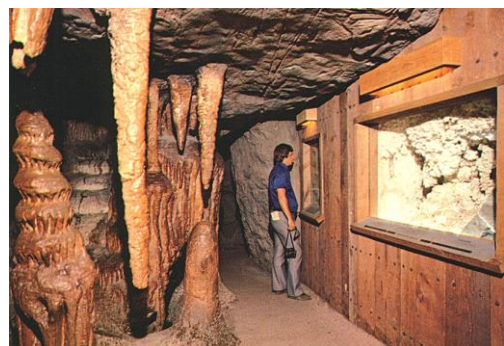
Prod. Co: Sounds Unlimited Recording Co.; Los Altos, CA

Rec. Eng: Fred & Ginny Trumbull

Liner Notes: (6-page foldout insert)

Time: 0:16

EP: A SOUND TOUR OF THE ARIZONA – SONORA



DESERT MUSEUM

Label: Sounds Unlimited LP D-133

Spec: 7" 33rpm (EP) (Sd 1 – Selection 41)

Notes: The ultrasonic sounds of the bats are "translated" to the range of human hearing by a Delcon ultrasonic translator.

This museum in the Sonora Desert near Tucson is a zoo constructed underground and made to look like a cave or mine tunnel. In the sides of the tunnel are cave-like alcoves behind glass where desert animals can be viewed in their burrows. The bat cave features Mexican fruit bats not vampire bats. This artificial cave, supposedly a replica of a cave in the nearby Santa Rita Mountains (Anon. 1958), was built using "latex casts" of cave formations. Cypress knees were used "as patterns for casting large stalactites and stalagmites." In the distance the cave passage leads to an entrance opening with a view of the sky. This sky is actually a painting and, through the use of mirrors, the cave passage was made to appear longer than it is. (Larsen 1958)



Bat Cave in Museum

Ref: Anon. 1958, These People Are Watching a Bat, *Sunset*, Feb. 1958, p. 18, 20

Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Overview & History, [desertmuseum](#)

Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, [Wikipedia](#)

Larsen, Peggy Pickering, A Living World Under Ground, *Nature Magazine*, v. 51, n. 6, June-July 1958, p. 288-292, 332
Tyburec, Janet 2014, Bats, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, [desertmuseum](#)

DOC-RBB-US4 United States 1993

Vampire Bats Chittering Giant Bats Chittering

Bat Sounds

Prod. Co: Laserlight Digital

Time: (Tk 31) 0:40 & (Tk 32) 0:40

1. Compilation **CD:** 101 DIGITAL SOUND EFFECTS –
SOUNDS OF HORROR

Laserlight Digital 12 144 (Tks 31 & 32)

Notes: Two field recordings of bat sounds: the first has faintly heard high-pitched chitters and the second has loud rhythmic chattering back and forth and squeaking sounds.

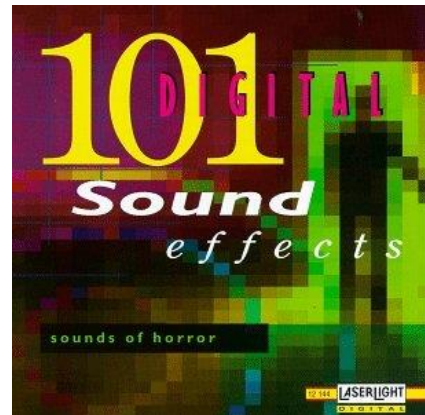
The cover illustration of the reissue compilation double CD has three black bats flying over Dracula's head. This cover is not included in the Bat Picture Covers section.

Ref: 101 Digital Sound effects – Sounds of Horror CD, [Amazon](#)

101 Digital Sound effects – Sounds of Horror CD, [CDUniverse](#) (◀2 AUDIO SAMPLES)

101 Digital Sound effects – Sounds of Horror CD, [cdpoint.com.br](#)

101 Digital Sound effects – Sounds of Horror CD, [Discogs](#)



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