

# Developing a New, On-line, Citizen Science Project Studying Bat Behaviors



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## Goal:

Develop a new, online, citizen science project that uses archived videos to study bat behaviors.

## Description:

This is a pathways project and is focusing on archived videos from one location to show proof-of-concept. The original plan was to use videos from Mammoth Cave National Park, KY. Technical difficulties resulted in a switch to videos from Coronado National Memorial, AZ. We are working with the Citizen Science Alliance (Adler Planetarium) to incorporate our project into the Zooniverse platform of citizen science projects.

## How the Project Will Work:

- Log onto website and create an account
- Go through short training session
- Watch videos and identify behaviors
- Discussion boards available to share interesting videos, ask questions, interact with researchers, educators, and citizen scientists
- Links to social media outlets
- QAQC performed on each season's videos
- Able to search for specific behaviors

Many cacti, including agave, are pollinated by bats.  
Photo credit: AI\_HikesAZ



Lesser long-nosed bats (*Leptonycteris curasoae*) are federally endangered.  
Photo credit: USFWS

## Challenges:

- Overcoming people's fear of bats
- Designing a citizen science project that uses videos to study behavior
- Technical difficulties with video from Mammoth Cave National Park

## If Successful, Where Do We Want to Go Next?

- Pursue additional funding to expand and scale up
- Add additional locations
- Add additional behaviors (maternity roosts, hibernacula)
- Translate into multiple languages



Because lesser long-nosed bats are pollen and nectar feeders, they often visit hummingbird feeders at night. Photo credit: Gail Hampshire

## Collaborators:

- National Park Service (Mammoth Cave National Park, Coronado National Memorial, Cumberland Piedmont Network): Providing archived videos and bat expertise
- Citizen Science Alliance (Adler Planetarium): Working with us to develop website and online platform
- US Geological Survey: Providing bat expertise
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology: Providing citizen science expertise and external evaluation (2 different people)