

with these tiny mammals and am interested in gathering more information on Island bats. I invite anyone who sights an unusual bat, or sees bats at an odd time of year to contact me through the Natural History Society.

(Ed. note: the following information is reprinted from "The Future Is Abundant, A Guide to Sustainable Agriculture", copyright 1982 Tilth, 13217 Mattson Road, Arlington, Washington, 98223)

Bat boxes have been used successfully in Europe, but are new to the United States. They are simple to make and use inexpensive materials. One design is shown here. The exact shape and size of boxes are probably not important except for the width of the entry space. This should not exceed one inch, and 3/4 inch is ideal.

Bat boxes should be fastened securely to a tree trunk or the side of a building 12 to 15 feet off the ground. Boxes should be placed where they receive morning sun and afternoon shade, and most bats seem to prefer sites relatively protected from the wind. It is important to note that bats can live only where adequate food supplies exist. Most colonial bats are found near swamps, rivers, ponds and other areas where insect populations are high. Boxes located more than 1/2 mile from such habitats probably will not be successful. Bats are extremely shy and intolerant of disturbance. While incidence of rabies in bats is low (contrary to popular belief), bats, as other wildlife, may carry rabies. healthy bats are difficult to catch, so those which can be approached should be handled with great caution.

For more information about bats, including other bat box plans, contact The Center for Action on Endangered Species, 175 West Main Street, Ayer, MA 01432, or see "Build Bat Boxes" in Mother Earth News, March/April 1981.

Bat box dimensions are as follows: Front - 6x13-3/16".
Sides - 2-1/4x12-11/16 x 6x13-1/4"
Back - 6x11"
Top - 7-3/4x8-1/2"
Entry reducer - 1-1/2-6"

It was nice to see the front page of a recent Guardian carrying the headline "Provincial tourism industry optimistic about benefits from fascination with nature". This publicity was a direct result of the symposium on conservation and tourism, co-sponsored by the Island Nature Trust, Environment Canada and the Tourism Industry Assoc. of PEI.

Atlantic Marine Wildlife Tours, the company that takes tourists to seal pup herds on the ice floes off PEI, was a living example of the success that can come from the cooperation of conservation and tourism. Robbie Shaw, president of the PEI Tourism Industry Assoc., said he was happy tourist operators and environmentalists have finally found this middle ground of opportunity. Reports from Statistics Canada indicated that more than \$20 million a year is spent on birdwatching in North America, where the number of birdwatchers has grown from eight million in 1965 to an estimated 25 million today. These kind of figures are impressive and will continue to grow since, because of political instability in other countries traditionally noted for their wildlife, North Americans are discovering their own natural areas.

