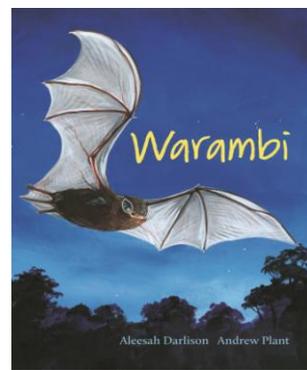


Warambi

## BAT Facts

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## Bat Facts

- 🦇 The scientific name for the Little Bent-wing Bat is *Miniopterus australis*.
- 🦇 The conservation status of Little Bent-wings in NSW is listed as Vulnerable.
- 🦇 Little Bent-wing Bats are small, chocolate-brown insectivorous bats. They have long, thick fur and are around 45 mm long. Absolutely tiny!
- 🦇 If an animal is 'insectivorous' it means it eats insects and other small creatures. Most bats are insect-eaters. Their favourite foods are beetles, moths, flies and mosquitoes. Some also eat grasshoppers, crickets and scorpions.
- 🦇 Little Bent-wing Bats occur in coastal north-eastern NSW and eastern Queensland in moist eucalyptus forest, rainforest or dense coastal banksia scrub.
- 🦇 Bats are nocturnal. During the day, Little Bent-wing Bats sleep in caves, tunnels and sometimes tree hollows. At night they wake and go hunting for food.
- 🦇 Baby bats are called kids or pups. Pups are born live, feet first and completely helpless. Most bats have one baby at a time.
- 🦇 Breeding or roosting colonies can number up to 150,000 individuals.
- 🦇 For the first few months of their lives, baby bats drink only their mother's milk.
- 🦇 Baby bats grow quickly. By a few weeks of age, most bats can fly. Before they leave their nursery roost, they practice flying with their mothers.
- 🦇 When hunting prey, bats use echolocation, sending out squeaking sounds, or ultrasonic pulses, through their mouth or nose. These sounds are so high-pitched, humans can't hear them. Bat knows when an insect is near because the sounds echo or bounce off it back to the bat's ears. When the bat hears the echo, it knows exactly where the insect is.
- 🦇 Once a bat has zeroed in on its prey, it catches it in its mouth or scoops it up with its wings or tail membrane.
- 🦇 Bats pull themselves through the air - like we use butterfly stroke when swimming.
- 🦇 A bat can swoop, dive, hover, turn sharply and catch prey with its wings, which are really hands. Unlike birds, however, most bats can't 'soar'.
- 🦇 Bats have five pointed claws, or toes, on each of their two hands. Their thumbs are moveable, just like human thumbs.
- 🦇 These claws are sometimes referred to as toes, one of which is moveable, just like a human thumb.
- 🦇 The main threats to Little Bent-wing Bats are:
  - Disturbance of colonies and destruction of their caves, especially nursery or hibernating caves.
  - Clearing of forests and other changes to their breeding and foraging habitats.
  - Use of pesticides and poisons in or near foraging areas.
  - Predation by feral cats and foxes.