

Bats

What is that small animal flying at night? It's a bat! Bats are flying mammals that look like mice with wings. They cannot walk very well and move by flying. Bats are nocturnal animals because they move around at night and spend most of the days in hiding. They hang upside down in a tree or a cave during the day and come out at night. Most bats are grayish-brown and blend in with the trees, so they are very hard to find during the day. You can often see them flying around as the sun goes down. They come out at night to feed on flying insects and mosquitoes. A bat can eat over 500 mosquitoes an hour!

How can a bat see at night? Bats do not use their eyes to find and catch the insects. They use their ears. Bats use a sonar system to find their prey. They make a high-pitched sound and then listen for the echo of this sound to find insects and avoid objects. This is called "echolocation," and it allows bats to see with their ears. Humans cannot hear the sound bats make, but we can be thankful for all the insects they eat.