CREATURES OF THE NIGHT:
ELF OWLS, BATS, NIGHTHAWKS

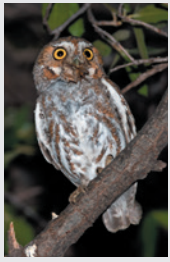
Lesser Nighthawk

Long-eared myotis bat

YOUR YARD IS A GOOD PLACE FOR NIGHT-TIME INSECT EATERS!

- BUG SNACKS: Birds, bats, and other insect eaters will keep the insect numbers down in your yard.
- URBAN ADVANTAGE: Nearby streetlights attract a wide variety of insects that then attract bats and nighthawks.
- SMALLEST OWL: A large saguaro with a nesting cavity may become a home for an Elf Owl.
- FUN AFTER DARK: You can experience the fascinating animals that live in the night.

Elf Owl



LET'S GO BATTY!

- Bat boxes specially designed for desert climate provide shelter for sleeping bats during the day.
  - Both the Rocket Box and 4-Chamber Nursery designs work well in the Sonoran Desert and can be purchased at the Tucson Audubon Nature Shop.
- Avoid insecticide use. Bats will eat insects for you!
- Check out bridges at dusk during spring and summer for bats leaving to hunt insects.

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CREATURES OF THE NIGHT

Lesser Nighthawk with chick

INGREDIENTS

- SHELTER: Protected saguaro cavities, dense low overhanging cover
- HABITAT: Pockets of dense and diverse vegetation with gaps for flying
- FOOD: Humidity and night-blooming nectar plants attract insects for food
- SAFETY: Red-hued outdoor lighting or motion-activated, downward-pointed white lighting protect light-sensitive species of bats

PLANTS

Desert hackberry

Velvet mesquite

Sacred datura

Tufted evening primrose

Mimosa

Saguaro

DIRECTIONS

Escape ramp in swimming pool

- Keep cats indoors. It's safer for cats and protects wildlife.
- Leave leaf litter on the ground.
- Avoid insecticide use.
- Support moths with both nectar and caterpillar food plants.
- Provide moving water with a fountain or drip into a dish. "Mosquito dunks" in the water target mosquito larvae and don't harm other insects.
- Swimming pools and livestock watering tanks provide needed water for bats. Sometimes bats and other animals fall into the water and escape ladders prevent them from drowning.
- Leave low-growing branches above open ground for daytime roosting for nighthawks. Lesser Nighthawks will nest on bare ground under shrubs.