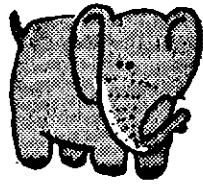


animal talk



ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

Sporadical #50

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Walter E. Kroening, Editor.....7857 North Lake Drive.....Phone 352-9272

Christmas!



ANNUAL MEETING

Three hundred fifty-six persons (almost a full house) attended the Society's Annual Meeting Tuesday evening, October 18, 1977. The program feature, "A Great White Bird", was the first showing in Milwaukee of a film which related the successful rescue from extinction of the whooping crane. Society Board member James Kuehn has donated this most informative and highly interesting film to the National Crane Foundation near Baraboo, Wisconsin. The facing page news article is a scenario of the painstaking methods employed in this mission by U. S. and Canadian ornithologists.

Penguins Suited for Summers Here

The Milwaukee County Zoo will soon have some new, formally dressed residents, Zoo Director George Speidel told about 400 members of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County at the group's 67th annual meeting.

He was speaking of the Humboldt's penguins, which will populate an exhibit area nearly completed between the aviary and the monkey house.

"The birds are in the US, in quarantine in Miami," Speidel said.

The Humboldt's penguin display is the first new exhibit since the Zoo, as originally planned, was completed. It was designed by Speidel, the plans were drawn by Walter E. Kroening — a society officer who is a licensed engineer — and financed by a \$60,000 donation from the Krause Milling Co.

Officers Re-Elected

Fifield was re-elected president of the society. Also re-elected were Thomas S. O'Byrne, vice president; Kroening, secretary; John A. Hazelwood, treasurer, and William C. Wright, immediate past president.

Directors re-elected to three year terms are Fifield, Kroening, Wright, William M. Chester, Richard D. Gebhardt, Bill G. Moomey, Dorothy R. Pain and Richard A. Steinman.

Newly elected to the board of directors were G. Eugene Soldatos (three year term) and Dr. Ralph N. Oisen (four year term).

The program, which followed the elections, featured the film "A Great White Bird," which traced zoologists' and conservationists' efforts to save the whooping crane from extinction.

Whooper stock soaring

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL

October 24, 1977

WASHINGTON, D.C. — AP — The majestic white birds rise from forested bogs of the North and West, spiraling higher and higher above the spruce and tamarack before turning south to ride the wind the length of the continent.

From the ground the whooping cranes resemble black tipped crosses moving across the sky. Their clarion calls fill the heavens with a windsong of trumpets.

The flight takes them from northern Canada across the Great Plains to Texas' Gulf Coast, a 2,450 mile journey marking the changing of the seasons.

But this autumn's migration differs markedly from those of past years. More endangered whoopers are flying south than at any time in recent history.

The whooping crane, once believed doomed to extinction, has stepped back from the abyss.

From a record low of 14 in 1939, at least 114 survive today: 69 adults and 9 young that comprise the primary flock nesting in the Northwest Territories, 5 immature birds and at least 5 fledglings forming a new flock in Idaho, and 26 captive cranes.

So dramatic has been the whooper's recovery in the past decade that Ray C. Erickson of the US Fish and Wildlife Service says, "The whooper's future looks very encouraging."

But the optimism is tempered by caution. The comeback is in large measure attributable to man's eleventh hour efforts to save the species, efforts that included performing the crane's most intimate functions. The question now is whether or not the whooper will be able to do for himself what man has done for him.

Reluctant females have been artificially inseminated, eggs have been stolen from nests and foster parents have raised young — extreme measures considered essential to save a species doomed by both nature and advancing civilization.

Authorities estimate 1,000 to 2,000 whoopers inhabited North America when the Pilgrims stepped ashore, the last survivors of a breed that flourished 500,000 years ago in the wake of the last Ice Age.

Fossils indicate the bird was found from coast to coast, from the Arctic to Mexico. The population explosion stemmed from the broad marshes and savannahs created by the retreating glacier. The wetlands provided ideal habitat for the spindly legged bird.

But the marshes gradually were claimed by forests. Later, the coming of the white man accelerated the fatal evolution.

Turn of the century hunters killed the whooper for plumage. Egg collectors plundered nests. Some shot the bird for food. Others killed out of curiosity, to get a close look at the rare and beautiful crane.

The whooper's attraction is understandable. He is striking in appearance: Snow white plumage garnished with a splash of crimson across the forehead and cheeks. Adult males stand four feet high — tallest bird in North America. In flight, black wingtips contrast sharply with white body.

But the regal bearing failed to save the king. In 1913, William T. Hornaday of the New York Zoological Park wrote, "This splendid bird will almost certainly be the next North American species to be totally exterminated."

Biologists hoped increasing protection would enable the crane to naturally rebuild its numbers. But the recovery process was slow.

The master stroke came in 1975. US and Canadian wildlife biologists sought to establish a second wild flock by launching the foster parent program. Whooper eggs were placed in sandhill crane nests at Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Idaho.

Biologists' hopes for the whooper's future rested on whether the closely related sandhills would accept whoopers as their own. They proved excellent parents, raising the adopted young and guiding them south for the winter at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico. A migratory tradition was begun.

To date, five whoopers have completed the Idaho-New Mexico journey. At least five more are expected to soon make the trip.

Authorities hope to create at least two more new flocks by having impressionable young whoopers follow the established traditions of sandhill cranes. The next effort calls for developing an eastern population nesting in either Manitoba or Minnesota and wintering in Florida, Erickson said.

Until at least four distinct flocks are established, "the crane's future is not secure," he added.

Yet, the outlook has never been more optimistic, even among professionals who habitually issue guarded predictions. As Keith M. Schreiner, associate director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, views it, "We don't think we've overcome all the obstacles yet. The whooper is still endangered, but it's made one more step toward recovery."

\$60,000 HUMBOLDT PENGUIN EXHIBIT DEDICATED

The first new major exhibit added to our Zoo since 1971 was paid for by the Zoological Society with funds donated by the Krause Milling Company. George Speidel did the design concept; the plans were prepared by the Society which contracted the work to Cost, Inc., a specialist in artificial rockwork.

On Thursday, November 10, 1977, Society President Thomas Fifield officially thanked top officers of Krause Milling and then presented the penguins and their new home to Milwaukee County through County Executive William O'Donnell. Pictured across page: (left) Robert Mikula, Park Commission General Manager; George Donovan, Park Commission President; Bill O'Donnell; Speidel; Fifield; Willis Sullivan and Charles Krause, Krause Milling Company Board Chairman and President respectively....all backgrounded by the Peruvian newcomers and their rocky Pacific-coast-like quarters.



"EVERYbody was there."



Panel proposes hike in fees at zoo, links

By Judy Wines
For the Post

The County Board's Finance Committee voted last Wednesday to raise fees at county golf courses, increase admission rates at the Zoo and eliminate the 25 cents charged for evening swimming at outdoor swimming pools.

The Park Commission and County Executive William O'Donnell proposed the increase in Zoo admission prices. The admission fee charged would be raised from \$1 to \$1.50 for county residents and from 25 cents to 50 cents for resident children. Non-resident adults would be charged \$2.50 instead of the current \$1 and non-resident children would be charged \$1 instead of the current 25 cents.

Senior citizens with Milwaukee County ID cards would continue to be admitted free. Fees for the Children's Zoo would be eliminated. Members of the Zoological Society would still be admitted free at any time and residents would be admitted free before 10:30 a.m. daily.

A report to the committee that the 25 cents fee charged for evening swimming after 6 p.m. in outdoor pools netted only \$3,000 last summer resulted in the recommendation that the fee be eliminated. The 50 cent fee currently charged during the day at county indoor-outdoor pools will remain the same.

The committee also recommended that auto parking rates at the county stadium be raised from \$1 to \$2. Bus parking fees will be raised from \$4 to \$10.

The Finance Committee recommendations go to the full County Board for final action. The outcome of the committee's deliberation over fees will be reflected in the County's 1978 budget, which the County Board must approve by Nov. 15.

POST - November 2, 1977

Free Entry Backed for Zoo Group

Free admission to the Milwaukee County Zoo for members of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County and their families has been recommended to the County Board by its Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee.

Most of the Zoo's animals have been contributed by society members or bought with society funds, said Walter E. Kroening, zoological society secretary.

The value of society contributions since the original zoo was established in Washington Park has been about \$2 million, he said.

Kroening said the society has about 2,300 members, most of whom have families. Some live outside the Milwaukee area. A regular family membership costs \$10 a year, and special memberships cost up to \$1,000.

For the fees, society members receive only a copy of the society's publication, "Animal Talk"; an invitation to an annual picnic, for which they pay, and a free dinner at the annual meeting, he said.

"Our zoo wouldn't be in first place in the country if it weren't for the society," said Robert J. Mikula, general manager of county parks.

At a previous meeting, some committee members had expressed fear that granting the society's request for free admission might set a precedent and reduce county revenue.

A park staff report estimated, however, that the income loss would be about \$6,250 a year, based on current society membership. Kroening noted that only 23% of Zoo revenue came from admissions.

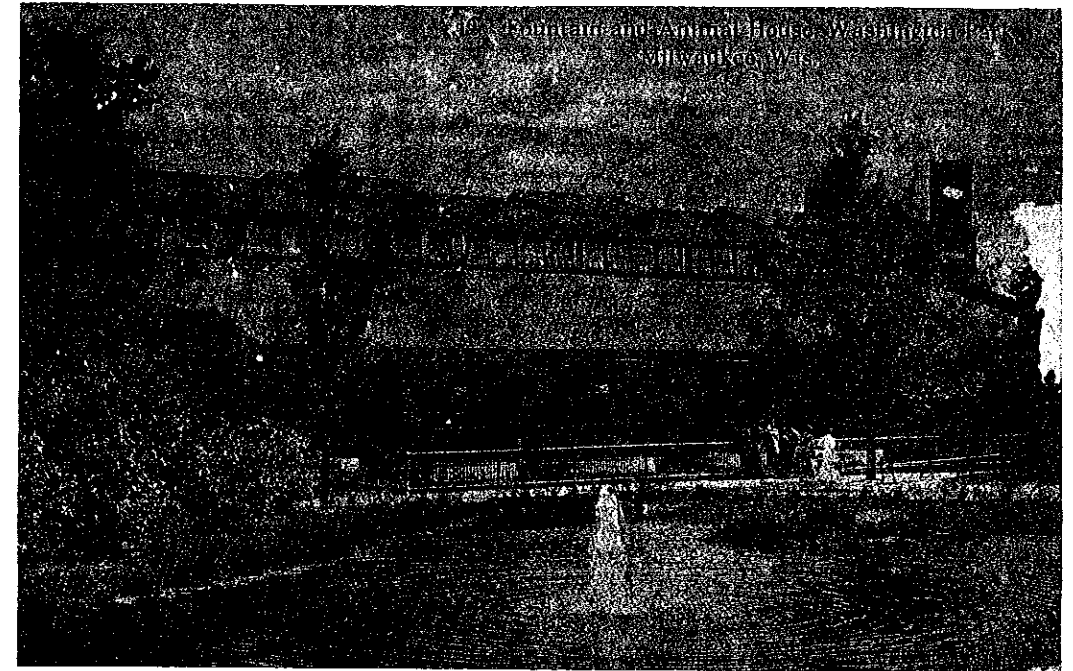
The committee did not consider a long pending proposal to place a controversial sculpture designed by Richard Lippold in Pere Marquette Park, N. 3rd and W. State.

Committee Chairman John J. Valenti said Rep. Henry Reuss (D-Wis.) wanted a chance to express his views on the sculpture, so the committee delayed consideration. Reuss favors placement of the sculpture, Valenti said.

*"snack" W&K correction

Milwaukee Journal, August 24, 1977

Zoological Society President Thomas B. Fifield will inform each member by letter regarding the effective date of the new free admissions and dues. You will also receive two membership application forms. Please use them to convince your friends to join the Society. Your support of our nationally-famous Zoo is an important factor in keeping it among the foremost.

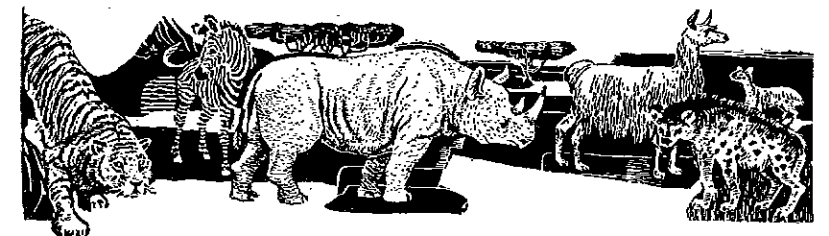


The above picture of the old Washington Park Zoo was on a post card dated August 6, 1914, and was addressed as follows:

ON 21 — NORTH AVENUE
BETWEEN DRUG STORE AND A SALOON
IN THE REAR

The post card is one of a substantial collection owned by Assistant Zoo Director Bob Bullermann.

(Imagine today's Post Office faced with this delivery challenge. Only a miracle would keep it out of the Dead Letter Office or the closest refuse container.)



THE MILLS OF THE GODS GRIND SLOWLY

It takes more than animal expertise to run a successful zoo nowadays. Among the multiple facets of a zoo director's talents is the ability to acquire animals. This has become a real problem because of vanishing species, country-of-origin laws against exportation, importation laws of the United States, and dwindling sources of worldwide supply. Were it not for the ability of some of our zoos in breeding animals, particularly vanishing species, the possibility of buying, trading or borrowing wild animals for exhibit or breeding purposes, accession by any means would be nearly non-existent.

Here are the hard facts about one recent experience in the purchase by our Zoo of two male Cottontop Marmosets which were sorely needed to continue the successful breeding of this species. Zoo Director George Speidel and his assistant, Bob Bullermann, spent over thirty hours at paper work required by United States government law. The completed forms were mailed January 25, 1977, as an application to the United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. The paper work involved totaled twenty-six pages which included a sketch of the proposed quarters showing all of its necessary facilities. Proof of technical ability and expertise on the part of Zoo personnel was also required.

After all the documents were accepted by Fish and Wildlife, a summary of the application contents had to be printed in the Federal Register. After thirty days of its publication (a period permitted any citizen to make comments, pro or con) the application was further "processed." On August 2, 1977, 185 days after the initial effort in January, government approval was received.

Finally — Hurray! — the Cottontops arrived safe and sound on August 11, 1977, over eight months from the time that the source of such Marmosets was discovered and application was made for their purchase. In this elapsed time at least one set of twins might have been born had mating occurred with the two waiting females at our Zoo.

The Lacy Act, which brought about this complicated bureaucratic procedure, was created to protect vanishing species through safeguards designed to assure transfers by sale, trade, and breeding loan of such species, to the most optimum quarters in a zoo under the supervision of highly expert professionals.

MARMOSETS ARRIVE — FINALLY

Before this national law was strictly enforced a few years ago, all it took George Speidel to acquire a new animal was a phone call to another zoo director or an animal trader.

The preceding example of nine months elapsed time is not at all unusual nowadays. There is no short cut. It is indicated that the administration of the Lacy Act needs to be reviewed to eliminate the prodigious amount of paper work which markedly slows down delivery of breeding species. The American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums is making a strong effort in this direction.

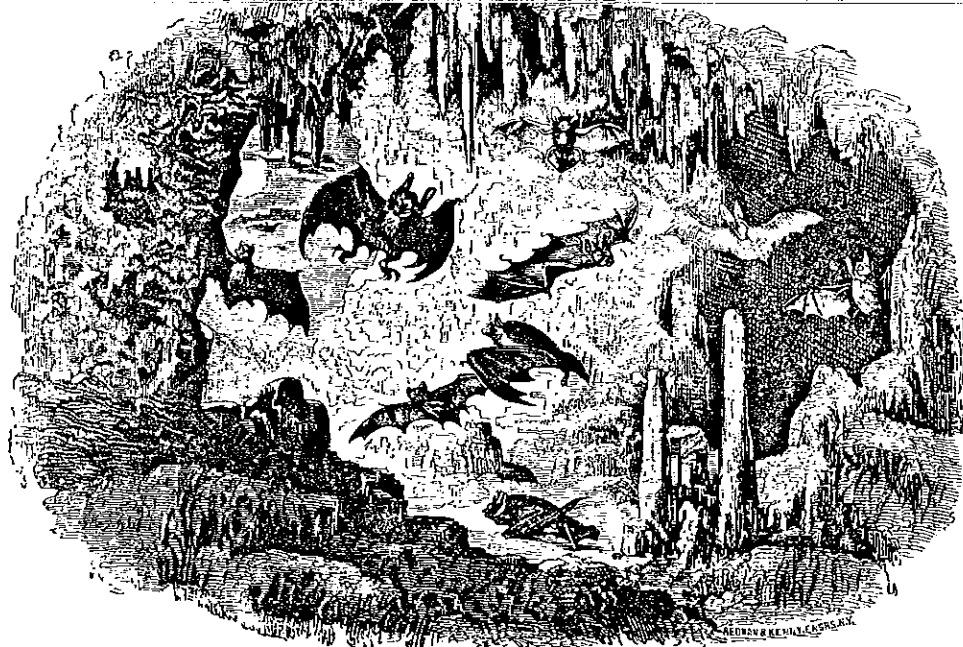


EPISODE II... "All That Was Known About Bats in 1874" reproduced from my copy of JOHNSON'S NATURAL HISTORY ILLUSTRATING & DESCRIBING THE ANIMAL KINGDOM. (See Page 11 of last issue.)

one has only to throw a deep Rembrandt shade over a piece of canvas, and show a bat's wing partly displayed from a cave, in order to give an infernal air to it, and make it, with very little painting, a good poetical representation of the gates of hell. It is easy to see how a race which is linked with such associations, should have had but a scanty measure of justice meted out to it by the half-superstitious naturalists of the Middle Ages; and a remnant of the same superstition is, no doubt, the cause of much of the horror which is still connected with some of the larger species of warm countries.

When we come to study the family of bats, however, in the light of natural history, not only does the traditional horror to which we have alluded vanish, but in their structure and habits we find much that is exceedingly curious. Their organs of sense are variously developed. The ears are in general large, and in some of the species they have a duplicature or second concha, as if there were one ear within the other. It is hence presumed that the sense of hearing is acute; and it may be that those which have the duplicature to the ears, have thus the means of closing up the auditory passage, so that they may not be disturbed in their repose during the day.

The eyes are very small, and deeply imbedded, something like those of moles; and though they must have the power of vision, it does not appear that they are essential to the animal in finding its way, even when it is intricate. Spallanzani suspended willow rods in a room in which he turned loose some bats which he had blinded; but though he frequently shifted these, so as to make the passage between them as varied and as intricate as possible, these creatures never struck against one of them, though they kept flying about in all directions. The same experiments have been made by others, and with a like result. The question has hence been raised as to the means by which bats contrive to avoid obstacles, and the same inquiry may be extended



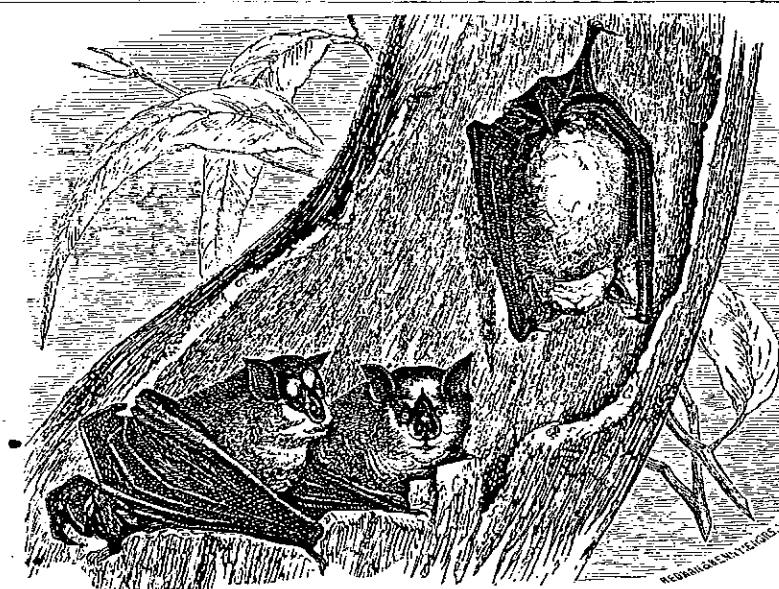
BATS IN A CAVERN.

to very many other animals. A horse, in the dark, pauses when he comes to a closed gate, though he never was on the road before. Nocturnal beasts do not more frequently fall into pits and over precipices than beasts which are abroad during the day, and have their eyes to guide them; and nocturnal birds do not fly against trees any more than daylight birds. People, too, will keep a well-known path, though the night be pitch dark. The explanation of these cases has been sought in the supposition of a sixth sense, but as yet no satisfactory solution of such phenomena has been found.

The breeding of bats takes place at the very hottest time of the year. The young, which are usually two in number, are naked and helpless at their birth—capable only of clinging to the teats of their mother, which, however, they do with the greatest firmness and pertinacity. This habit to them is necessary, for the mother does not lie down, or even stand on the ground, when she suckles her young, as is the case with most of the mammalia. She hangs suspended by the nails of her thumbs, or more generally by those of her hind feet, to the branch of a tree, or some cranny or irregularity in a ruin or cavern. There is no nest in which she can leave the young ones when she goes out to feed, and thus she must bear them about attached to her body till they are capable of flight. The female has no marsupium; but this habit resembles somewhat that of the marsupial animals. The young are very immature when produced, and their nest and place of safety and repose is the body of their mother.

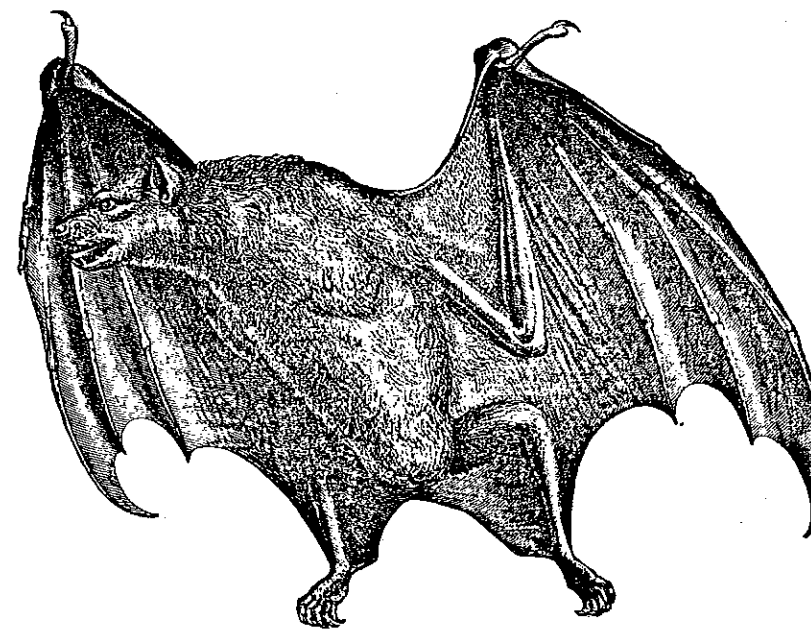
Some of the species occasionally fly during the day, but this practice is by no means common, and is confined to some of the foreign species, which are in part vegetable-feeders. In temperate climates, they conceal themselves during the day, even in the season of their greatest activity. Caverns, holes of trees, and walls and ruined buildings, are their retreats, and from these they issue forth as dusk begins to set in, flutter about in their laborious flight, and capture such insects as are then on the wing—gnats, mosquitos, moths, and beetles,—their wide gape, with its formidable teeth, being an excellent trap for the capture of such prey.

The service which they render to vegetation by the destruction of insects, which in the larva state prey upon it, is very considerable, even in temperate climates. Some of the hot countries, in which these swarm by myriads, could not, but for them, be inhabited. In humid places, on the margins of tropical forests, mosquitos are troublesome enough as it is, but if the bats did not



HORSE-SHOE BATS IN THE HOLLOW OF A TREE.

reduce their numbers, they would be utterly unbearable. Those species, too, which frequent the towns and settlements are useful in other respects. Most of the race are miscellaneous in their feeding, and not very delicate in their taste. They devour indiscriminately all animal substances, whether raw or dressed, and whether in a fresh or putrid state, thus removing a great deal of noxious and dangerous matter.



KALONG, OR ROUSSETTE BAT.—(See p. 129.)

SEE EPISODE III IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF ANIMAL TALK.

So far, our account having reference to the bats with which we are acquainted in temperate climates, we have spoken of them as a gentle and useful race; but truth compels us to declare that there are, in far-off tropical countries, larger and more formidable creatures of this family. *

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