

## Thank you for your participation!

Your efforts in collecting guano samples directly enable a rich description of what local bats are eating. We hope to illustrate the tremendous value of our bat populations by demonstrating their ability in targeting and reducing invasive insect pest populations in forested and agricultural landscapes.

Please see below for instructions on how to fill out the sample document. Your work is greatly appreciated - I look forward to our continued collaboration!

Below is an example of what a series of filled out weekly collection sheets could look like. Note that there are twelve samples collected each week, with a single pellet placed in a unique collection tube. Each tube is pre-labeled with a sample ID value - simply record this value onto the worksheet below and record the date and week in which samples

Date	Sample ID#
06/01/15	0013
06/01/15	0014
06/01/15	0015
06/01/15	0016
06/01/15	0018
06/01/15	0019
06/01/15	0020
06/01/15	0021
06/01/15	0022
06/01/15	0023
06/02/15	0024
06/02/15	0025

**You may accidentally lose an empty collection tube – don't worry! Simply grab the next available tube. Though the order of tubes doesn't matter it's appreciated if you can group your set of 12 samples together in the box.**

**Ideally you'll collect all 12 samples at the same time every week. However, it's okay if you need to gather guano throughout the week – just remember to always record each sample ID with the specific day and week.**

If you have any questions or comments, you can contact us by phone, email, or check out our website for further instructional videos, information about the project, and links for other bat conservation efforts. Thanks again for your help!

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## **Provided materials**

Each collection packet will include:

- |                                       |                              |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (1) 100 ft <sup>2</sup> plastic sheet | (1) forceps                  |
| (48) labeled collection tubes per box | (12) alcohol wipes           |
| (12) pairs of non-latex gloves        | (2) prepaid return envelopes |

Additional required materials not included in this pack:

- |           |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|
| (1) Broom | (1) roll adhesive tape |
|-----------|------------------------|

## **Collection instructions** – [see our website for a short video guide](#)

### *Laying the groundwork*

- Identifying the most likely location for collecting fresh guano can be as simple as looking for the biggest pile of poop; however, bats may change their roost location, so look for fresh guano as a likely indicator of where they will continue to provide you with new samples.
- Once you have identified the most likely site, use a broom to sweep away any old pellets. Only new pellets are collected, twelve each week.
- Secure the plastic tarp to the floor using tape. If your area is outdoors, identify a few heavy objects (ex. logs, stones, etc.) to ensure the plastic sheet doesn't blow away. If you put a board on an incline underneath the plastic this helps drain away water while allowing the guano to stick to the plastic.
- Check to ensure no foreign objects are on the sheet, and let your bats do their thing for up to 1 week.

### *Collecting the samples*

- Put on the non-latex gloves before performing sample collection. This helps reduce contamination risks both to yourself and to the samples you are collecting.
- Open a sterile alcohol swab packet and clean the forceps. It is critical that the forces are wiped clean each time a new sample is collected. You can reuse the alcohol wipe between each sample collected within a week; discard the swabs after collecting a set of samples for a week.
- Open a collection tube and add use the forceps to transfer a single pellet of guano into the tube. Close the tube tightly to prevent any contents evaporating or leaking out.
- Clean the forceps to prevent cross contamination between samples. Obtain a new collection tube and repeat the process of transferring a single pellet into the tube.
- Collect a total of 12 samples for the week.

### *Finishing touches*

- Record the date and sample ID numbers on the collection sheet. It is critical that each collection tube ID number has a specific date of collection. Place all collection tubes in their original container – no need to freeze any samples.
- Sweep away any remaining guano pellets from the collection area. We are interested in collecting only new pellets from the next week.
- Use the prepaid envelope to ship back the collection box once 3 to 4 weeks of samples have been obtained.

## Collection Sheet

Collector: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Sample	Date	Sample ID #
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		

## Collection Sheet

Collector: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Sample	Date	Sample ID #
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		