

The association Riserva Naturale Foce del Tagliamento O.D.V. was born from the awareness of the natural wealth of the river Tagliamento's mouth, and the desire to create a nature reserve to preserve its flora and fauna.

The association unites environmental associations of Bibione and Lignano and all citizens who share its values; it engages in dissemination through public meetings, photographic exhibitions, nature workshops, ecological days, nature guide service, etc. All these initiatives have succeeded in involving increasingly enthusiastic and participating citizens and visitors.

FOCE DEL TAGLIAMENTO ODV  
via Po 7, Lignano Sabbiadoro  
CF 92019790309  
[focedeltagliamento@gmail.com](mailto:focedeltagliamento@gmail.com)

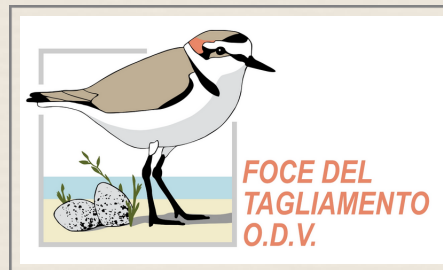


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### **Bats are extremely important for humans and the planet.**

Bats around the world eat millions of insects every night, protecting people from insect-borne diseases and reducing the amount of pesticides farmers have to use to keep their crops insect-free. Some species of bats can eat up to 1,200 mosquitoes per hour during their nocturnal hunting.

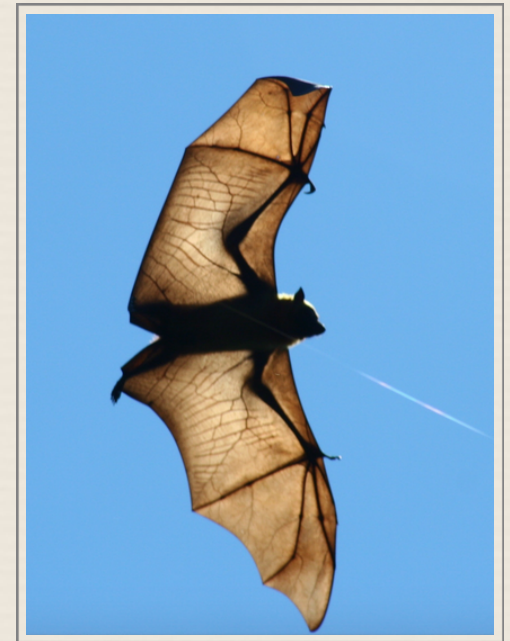
In addition, many species of tropical bats are pollinators. Hundreds of plant species rely on them for their reproduction, including fruit plants, such as bananas, avocados, and mangoes!



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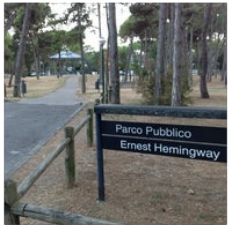
## DARK WINGS PROJECT

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To improve our knowledge of bats presence in the municipality of Lignano Sabbiadoro, and to assess their value in the biological control of mosquitoes.





*Lungolaguna and Hemingway Park are two of the areas where bat-boxes will be installed.*

## THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

**Phase 1.** At the beginning of 2024, 30 bat-boxes are installed to encourage the establishment of new bat colonies.

**Phase 2.** From the summer we will monitor the bats present with the use of hand-held bat detectors, and then we will analyze species-specific ultrasound emitted.

**Phase 3.** During the following year, we will monitor the bat population growth after the protection measures taken.

During all phases, we will measure the density of mosquitoes to assess the value of bats presence in the biological control of mosquitoes.

# SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BATS

Many bats are insectivorous and therefore play a key role in agriculture, ridding crops of insects and pests in a natural way. They are also important for the production of guano, which is deposited in caves where colonies find shelter and which is used as fertilizer.



## MOST BATS USE SOUND TO 'SEE' THE WORLD AROUND THEM.

This ingenious navigation system is called echolocation. Bats send sound waves from their mouths or noses, which bounce off their surroundings to their ears. By listening to the echoes, bats can get a good idea of what is in their surroundings, including succulent insects!



## BATS SLEEP UPSIDE-DOWN.

Whether they hide in dark caves, sneak into the hollows of old trees or live in the roofs of old buildings, all bats need a safe place to sleep, where they hang by their legs! This sleeping strategy allows bats to make less effort and escape predators easily, as they can launch themselves directly into the air.



## THE SCIENTIFIC NAME FOR BATS IS CHIROPTERA, WHICH MEANS 'HAND WING'.

You can immediately see the reason for this name by observing a specimen up close. Each bat wing is actually a thin layer of skin stretched between four long fingers and a thumb! In fact, the structure is not very different from that of a human hand or a crocodile leg.

