



# Making Bat Wingspans

If you do not have access to one of the Project EduBat trunks, you may want to make your own bat wingspans. Wingspans are a great way to show the diversity that abounds in the bat world. They can be used individually or sewn together on the largest wingspan – the Malayan flying fox or large flying fox (*Pteropus vampyrus*) - as shown in the photos below. While most of the bats we have in the United States are small bats, flying foxes achieve a large size. There are more than 1,300 species of bats and their wingspans vary from about seven inches to nearly six feet.

These wingspans can be used alone as an educational tool or with the following EduBat activities: Heroes of the Night Sky, How Do I Compare to a Bat, or Working the Night Shift.

We recommend that you use felt to make your bat models as this fabric is relatively inexpensive, fairly sturdy, easy to find online or in stores, and comes in a variety of colors. You can attach the species names to each bat using fabric glue or by stitching them directly to the wingspan. All outlines are available on the Project EduBat website at: <http://batslive.pwnet.org/edubat/curriculum.php>.

A special thanks to Bat Conservation International for sharing their outlines for wingspans and making them available to all of us!

**A special thanks to you for your willingness to increase awareness about our beneficial bats and why they are so important!**

Figure 1. Large flying fox wingspan with greater bulldog, hoary, bumblebee, and Mexican free-tailed bats attached.



**Figure 1. Large flying fox wingspan with northern long-eared, big brown, hoary, bumblebee, and Mexican free-tailed bats attached.**

