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**FIELD STUDIES OF BATS AND PRIMATES: THE DIFFERENTIAL GROWTH OF TWO DISCIPLINES AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR CONSERVATION.**

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Bats and primates share many characteristics that are likely to motivate research interest. For example, both orders exhibit a great variety of social systems and a high degree of social complexity, and most species for which there are data have stable social groups with clearly differentiated relationships. Both bats and primates are long-lived, have small litter sizes, long inter-birth intervals and slow maturation rates. Finally, the vast majority of species of both orders are found in tropical rain forests and consequently many species are experiencing habitat loss and face the threat of extinction. Notable differences include the fact that bats have a much wider geographic distribution than nonhuman primates, being found on every continent, apart from Antarctica, as well as many archipelagos and oceanic islands. Total species richness of bats is also more than twice that of primates. However, despite their much greater ubiquity and diversity, and despite the fact that they face comparable threats of extinction, the total research effort on bats is at least an order of magnitude less than that on primates, and so we know much less about them. Factors that are likely to have contributed to this discrepancy include the relative difficulty involved in conducting field studies on bats, differences in public attitudes and "charisma", and the fact that we humans are also primates. The case will be made that, in general, conservation efforts for nonhuman primates have a greater chance of success than those for bats, because they are founded on more knowledge.

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