

Amazing Creatures: The Hawaiian Hoary Bat



The Hawaiian Hoary Bat, also called the Ope`ape`a in Hawaiian, or the *Lasiurus cinereus semotus*, as the scientific name, mainly eat termites, mosquitoes, moths, beetles, flies, crickets, and stink bugs. They can eat up to 40% of its body weight in a single feeding. They also prefer to eat bugs that fly over water. Moths have apparently adapted to their new predators. They are able to detect a Hawaiian Hoary Bat's call, so it can hide from its predators.

Hawaiian Hoary Bats have been known to survive temperatures as low as seven degrees Fahrenheit. They are born in the months June through August. They weigh around 5 to 8 ounces when they are just born. The Females are normally a little larger than the males. The Hawaiian Hoary Bat is called that because Hoary means, "Frosty." They are called frosty because of the white fur on them, giving them a "frosty" look. They also live a solitary life most of the time.

Bats, in general, don't have a lot of fossils found by scientists at all. Larger bats are normally frugivorous, while smaller bats are normally carnivorous. If any bat has big ears, it probably means that the bat relies heavily on echolocation. A lot of people think that all bats suck blood, but a lot of bats just eat fruits or bugs. In fact, the only blood-sucking bats are the Vampire Bats. They are called that probably because of the monster called, of course, a vampire.

Hawaiian Hoary Bats are seen to roost (perch) in trees, sometimes seen in lava

tubes or cracks in walls, and even some man-made structures. They occasionally eat over bays, streams, and along the seacoast.

The Hawaiian Hoary Bat has adapted a lot over the years to Hawai'i. Before the farmers and other people came, the Hawaiian Hoary Bat only ate native insects, but when the people *did* come, there was a lot more of the non-native insects, so the bats adapted to that. They have also adapted in their flight, but I was unable to find any information on that. I also believe that they may have adapted in other things.

I chose this animal because in fourth grade, a lady had come to our class to teach us about organisms native to Hawai'i. When she got to the Hawaiian Hoary Bat, I had thought it looked kind of cute, kind of unique. And then she said that there aren't many people who study the Hawaiian Hoary Bat. So I started researching it on my own. When my teacher told us about the project, I knew that I wanted to do it on the Hawaiian Hoary Bat, one of the Hawaiian Islands' only mammals.