

March 30, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

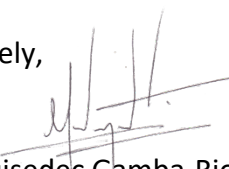
Bat Conservation International's mission is to conserve the world's bats and their ecosystems to ensure a healthy planet. We use science-led and evidenced-based conservation to identify and reduce global threats to bats, proactively protect key habitats on which bats depend, and guide management decisions that support sustaining bat populations. Since it was founded in 1982, BCI has been the leading organization dedicated to the enduring protection of global bat biodiversity and working for a world in which bats and humans successfully coexist.

On the invitation of local residents interested in the conservation of the Federally endangered Florida bonneted bat, between February 6th and March 20th, 2021, Bat Conservation International monitored two sites on private property located on the perimeter of the Calusa Golf Course. This work contributed to our program to identify the ranging behavior and distribution patterns of the Federally Endangered Florida bonneted bat in Miami-Dade County. Bat activity was recorded using a Song Meter Mini Bat Ultrasonic Recorder and analyze using Kaleidoscope Pro 5 (Wildlife Acoustics, Maynard, Massachusetts), using the "Bats of North America 5.4.0" classifier. Once identified, Florida bonneted bat calls were manually vetted.

Over 358,000 bat calls were recorded over 42 nights from two sites at the Calusa Golf Course. Six different bat species were identified from these calls, including the big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), northern yellow bat (*Lasiurus intermedius*), seminole bat (*Lasiurus seminolus*), evening bat (*Nycticeius humeralis*), Brazilian free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*), and the Florida bonneted bat (*Eumops floridanus*). The Brazilian free-tailed bat was the most abundant bat species with 47.7% of the bat calls recorded, with a mean number of 2,085 calls per night. Florida bonneted bats were recorded every night, and it was the fifth most abundant species with 6.5% of the bat calls and a mean number of 287 calls per night. The frequency of calls indicates that Florida bonneted bats are using this area for foraging, which is being increasingly observed as part of our work over large open spaces such as a golf course, in addition to some social interactions recorded.

Our recommendation is to conduct a formal bat acoustic monitoring within the Calusa Golf Course to understand this area's use by the Federally endangered Florida bonneted bat and a roosting survey to identify any possible natural roost.

Sincerely,



Melquisedec Gamba-Rios, Ph.D.
Endangered Species Interventions Research Fellow
Bat Conservation International