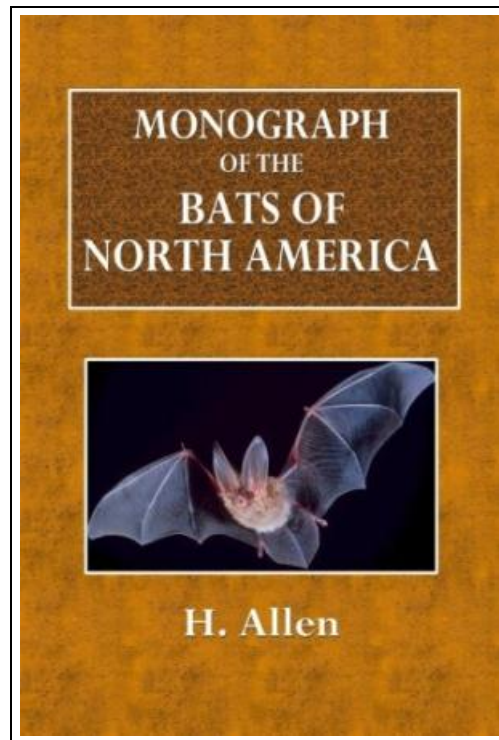


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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. From the INTRODUCTION. Among the numerous agents which Nature employs for restricting the excessive increase of the insect world, the bats hold a conspicuous position. Eminently adapted to an animal regimen, the vast majority of these animals are exclusively insectivorous in their habits. Mosquitoes, gnats, moths, and even the heavily mailed nocturnal Coleoptera, fall victims in large numbers to their voracious appetites. Certain members of the order, such as Flying Foxes (PTEROPODIDAE), are strictly frugivorous, it is true; and others, as the Dog-bat of Surinam (*Noctula leporina*), classified as an insect-eating bat, partakes occasionally of fruit in addition to its more animal diet; none of the species found in this country, however, are known to subsist on any other than insect food. In this respect they hold a decided relationship to certain birds, and it is interesting to observe how, under different circumstances, these widely separated animals serve us to the same end. The functions which the latter perform during the day, the former assume in the evening. The latter prey upon the diurnal insects, while the former feed exclusively upon the crepuscular and nocturnal kinds. The disappearance of the birds of day is a signal for the advent of the dusky host, which, as it were, temporarily relieve from duty their more brilliant rivals in guarding the interests of Nature. But, while thus connected with birds in their position in the world's economy, bats have none of that grace of form, or beauty of coloring so characteristic of the others. Their bodies are clumsy and repulsive; their hues are dull and unattractive - nor can the eye dwell with pleasure upon their grotesque and awkward motions. This aversion- so...



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