



The pallid bat (*Antrozous Pallidus*), is known for its unique habit of feeding almost entirely from the ground. Unlike most other North American bats, this species captures little, if any, prey while in flight. With its huge ears, it can detect insects simply by listening for footsteps, and it can respond accurately to a split-second sound from up to 16 feet away.



After swooping down upon its prey, the pallid bat carries the insect to a convenient perch to consume its meal. Its most common prey include

crickets, beetles, grasshoppers, and even scorpions. **The pallid bat is actually immune to a scorpion's sting!** Pallid bats roost in rock crevices, buildings, and bridges in arid regions. They are found from Mexico and the Southwestern United States north through Oregon, Washington, and western Canada.

The California leaf-nosed bat



(californicusMacrotus) is the only bat in the United States to have large ears and a nose leaf. It is also one of the most manoeuvrable in flight. With short, broad wings, it can fly at low speeds using minimal energy.

This bat is a "gleaning" insectivore which captures prey such as crickets, grasshoppers, beetles, and sphinx moths straight from the ground or foliage rather than in flight. It typically hunts within a few feet of the ground using its superior eyesight to search for insects. California leaf-nosed bats do not hibernate, nor do they migrate. They can be found in Sonoran and Mojave Desert scrub habitats in the Colorado River valley in southern California, Nevada and Arizona, and throughout western Mexico. They are susceptible to human disturbance which can be especially detrimental to the species during summer months when these bats are rearing young.



Mexican free-tailed bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) occupy a wide variety of habitats, ranging from desert communities through piñon-juniper woodland and pine-oak forests at elevations from sea level to 9,000 feet or more. The largest U.S. populations of free-tailed bats live in the West, with the densest concentrations found in Texas where they form maternity colonies numbering in the millions. They are found throughout Mexico and most of the western and southern U.S. It is estimated that 100-million Mexican free-tailed bats come to Central Texas each year to raise their young. Nursing females require large quantities of insects that are high in fat, which they obtain by consuming egg-laden moths.

MOJAVE DESERT BATS



Big Brown Bat

Abandoned mines are for BATS not people.

STAY OUT STAY ALIVE

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Subterranean Bats Program

Bats in the desert choose roosting sites that might surprise you. They often roost in abandoned mines and associated structures. The Needles Field Office has done several projects in recent years to protect bat habitat, as well as humans from the hazards of abandoned mines. These projects consist of constructing bat gates. A bat gate has slats big enough for bats to fly out and hunt for insects at night, but small enough to prevent humans from entering the mine. Abandoned mines serve as roosting habitat for several bats considered "BLM Sensitive" and "California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Species of Special Concern." More than half of the 45 bat species in the U.S. are in rapid decline or already listed as endangered. Two-thirds of these bat species roost in mines.

OHV Use

Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) provide fun, entertainment, and discovery. However, many of the desert's most attractive and fragile resources can be destroyed if vehicle access is not properly controlled. Resources, cultural and natural, can be unintentionally damaged or destroyed by uncontrolled vehicle use. We all have the responsibility for the proper use of vehicles, so please remember to TREAD LIGHTLY on public and private lands. Stay on designated routes of travel only.

NO CROSS COUNTRY TRAVEL

Desert Safety

- Summer temperatures routinely exceed 110° Fahrenheit. Each year people are lost, injured, and sometimes die while visiting desert areas. Take precautions to prevent finding yourself in an emergency situation.
- Always tell someone your plans, or leave a visible note on the dash of your vehicle with your expected route, destination, and time of return. Stick to your itinerary.
- Carry plenty of water. Drink at least a gallon per day.
- Take food or snacks. In the heat, you may not feel hungry, but your body needs nourishment.
- Never go alone.
- Take a good map and compass.
- Carry a first aid kit, signal mirror, flashlight and matches.
- Take a CB radio or cellular phone.
- Wear sunscreen and sunglasses.



- Dress in light colored, loose fitting clothes. Long-sleeves, long pants, a hat, and sturdy shoes will help protect you from the sun, coarse volcanic material, and sharp, spiny vegetation.
- Bring a jacket with you, as evening temperatures may drop 30 degrees or more.
- Make sure your vehicle is in good working condition. Check your tires, spare tire, jack, lug wrench, and fluid levels. Always start with a full tank of gas and try not to let it fall below half a tank before filling up again.
- If you are stranded, stay with your vehicle. Don't panic. Your vehicle is easier to spot than a person walking. Lift your hood. Attempt to signal for help using a mirror or by using newspapers to make an X on the ground.
- Watch for snakes, spiders, and scorpions among the rocks.



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