

## BATS OF PORTAL PRESERVE & CAVE CREEK RANCH



### Mexican Free-tailed Bat, *Tadarida brasiliensis*

Mexican free-tailed bats form some of the largest aggregations of any warm-blooded animal, sometimes roosting in colonies in the tens of millions. They eat huge quantities of moths, including the destructive corn-ear worm or cotton boll-worms (*Helicoverpa zea*).

**Body length:** 2 to 2-1/2 in.  
**Wingspan:** 11-3/4 in.  
**Weight:** 1/4 oz.



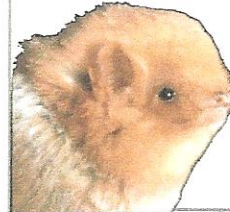
### Pallid Bat, *Antrozous pallidus*

Pallid bats listen for low-frequency sounds of ground-dwelling insects and will often alight on the ground to subdue their prey. They like to eat grasshoppers, June bugs, crickets, potato beetles, even poisonous scorpions and centipedes!

**Body length:** 2-1/2 to 3 in.  
**Wingspan:** 14 in.  
**Weight:** 1/2 oz.

### Western Red Bat, *Lasiurus blossevillii*

Western red bats roost in the open, in riparian areas and other broad-leaf deciduous forests. Males and females spend the year separately, with females forming maternity roosts of just a single mother with her pups. Though brightly colored, when hanging from a tree-branch by a single foot, they look like dried leaves.



**Body length:** 2 in.  
**Wingspan:** 12 in.  
**Weight:** 1/3 oz.



### Long-legged Myotis, *Myotis volans*

Long-legged myotis are small bats, commonly found in caves or mines. They will also form summer roosts in crevices, cracks, tree hollows, under rocks and in buildings. They eat flies, ants, moths, and beetles, therefore are likely to consume countless forest pests.

**Body length:** 2 in.  
**Wingspan:** 9 in.  
**Weight:** 1/5 oz.

### California Myotis, *Myotis californicus*

Another small bat, the California myotis usually forages under tree canopies and along the edges of water courses, where it consumes small moths, midges, crane flies and small beetles. They roost in tree cavities, crevices, and man-made structures.



**Body length:** 1-1/2 to 2 in.  
**Wingspan:** 8-1/2 in.  
**Weight:** 1/10 oz.

### Mexican long-tongued bat, *Choeronycteris mexicana*

The Mexican long-tongued bat is one of two species of nectar-feeding bats from Arizona. They feed on flower nectar from agave and columnar cacti and will also visit backyard hummingbird feeders.



**Body length:** up to 4 in.  
**Wingspan:** 13-1/2 in.  
**Weight:** 2/5 oz.

FOR MORE INFO:

[www.batcon.org](http://www.batcon.org)

Bats are mammals, but probably more closely related to primates than to the rodents with which they are often linked. As the only mammals capable of true, powered flight, and as prodigious consumers of night-flying insects, they occupy an important niche in the balance of nature.

## Diversity

### Worldwide

Over 1,100 bat species live on Earth. They are found on every continent except Antarctica and occupy every habitat except the most extreme desert and polar ecosystems.

### U.S. and Canada

Nearly 50 species of bats can be found in North America, north of Mexico. They range in size from tiny animals weighing less than a nickel with 6-inch wingspans, to individuals tipping the scales at a hefty 2-1/2 ounces and having wingspans approaching 2-feet.

## Why save bats?

### Threats to Bats

Like all animals, bats are subject to habitat loss and degradation, but they are also persecuted out of fear and ignorance.

### White-nose Syndrome

Our hibernating bats are dying by the millions in the Northeast, afflicted by a fungus which interrupts their ability to hibernate and causes them to burn their stored fat reserves too quickly in the winter. They then awaken months before insect food is available and starve to death on the snowy landscape.