

California myotis (*Myotis californicus*)



Taxonomy:

Family Vespertilionidae. Also called California bat. Four subspecies are recognized including *Myotis californicus californicus* which occurs in northern Utah.

Description:

Distinguished from most other bats by its small size. Differentiated from *Myotis ciliolabrum* by its rounded skull which has a distinct “forehead”, and pelage which is dull rather than glossy.

Total length: 70-94 mm; Tail: 35-42 mm; Hind foot: 5.5-7 mm; Ear: 12-14 mm; Forearm: 30-35 mm; Weight: 3.3-5.4 g.



Distribution:

Occurs from western Canada south through the intermountain and Pacific coastal regions to southern Mexico..

Ecology and diet:

The California myotis principally occurs in low elevation desert habitat, and is one of the most arid-adapted bats in North America. This species utilizes a wide variety of sites as both day roosts and hibernacula, including caves, abandoned mines, and buildings. It forages for flying insects early in the evening, often close to the ground or over water.

Life History:

Mating occurs in the fall, and females store sperm during winter hibernation. Fertilization and pregnancy occur in the spring. Single young are born mid-summer, often in small nursery colonies. Young are independent at around 1 month of age, and may live 15 years.

References: Bogan 1999a; Simpson 1993.