

CHIROPTERA (Bats)

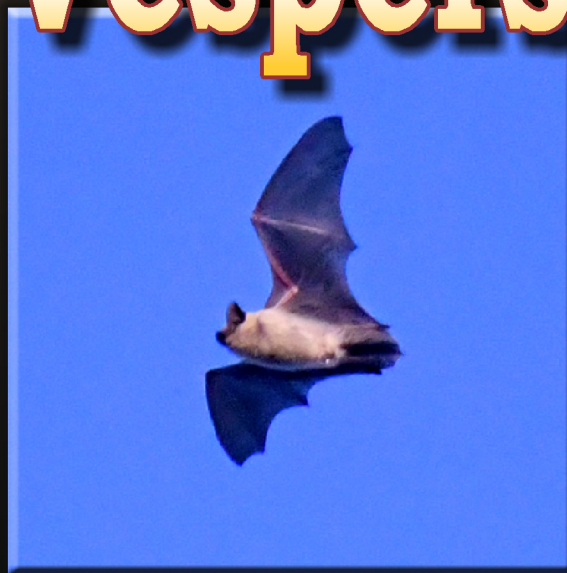
Free-Tailed



Leaf-Nosed



Vespers



Family **VESPERTILLIONIDAE** (Vesper Bats)

Western Pipistrelle (*Parastrellus hesperus*)

Measurements:

Average Length: 3" Wingspan: 8" Weight: .25 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

small; grayish body, dark feet, wings; brownish ears, face (looks like a mask)

Notes:

common; principally found in arid regions of sw US, but ranges north into WA, and south into Mexico; crepuscular to nocturnal; feeds on flying insects; smallest bat in the US; formerly classified in the genus *Pipistrellus*; female slightly larger than male; also known as **Canyon Bat**

Mojave presence: year-round

all photos taken at

Corn Creek

Desert National Wildlife Refuge

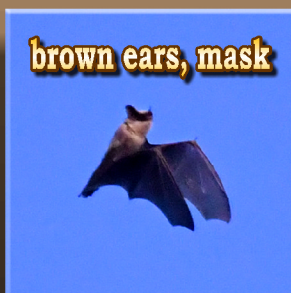
near Las Vegas, NV

Comments:

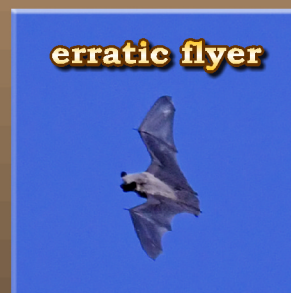
These slow-flying little bats are quite common at this location, and they are usually the first to appear in the early evening. Early risers, slow flyers, and daylight hours...sounds like a no brainer for getting great pics of these acrobatic rascals, but their flight in pursuit of insects is erratic and unpredictable, which makes for quite a challenge to get them in frame, at the right angle of sunlight...and in focus!



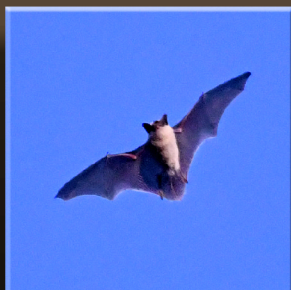
gray body



brown ears, mask



erratic flyer



Family VESPERTILLIONIDAE (Vesper Bats)

Pallid Bat (Antrozous pallidus)

Measurements:

Average Length: 5" Wingspan: 15.5" Weight: 1 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

large size; beige back, paler undersides; **big ears separated at base**; pig-like snout

Notes:

common; typically found in arid to grassland habitats throughout sw US, north into southern B.C., Canada, south through central Mexico, also Cuba; mainly nocturnal; but can be active in daytime; primarily insectivorous, though will also consume scorpions, cactus nectar and fruit; exudes skunk-like odor when alarmed; are unique among bats in that they are heterothermic (cold- or warm-blooded depending on season)

Mojave presence: year-round



Corn Crk; DNWR; Nevada



Corn Crk; DNWR; Nevada



Corn Crk; DNWR; Nevada



Corn Crk;

Comments:

Though mainly nocturnal, this bat betrayed its presence by flying about in mid-afternoon daylight around the railroad-tie cabin at **Corn Creek** in the **Desert NWR**! Its size (about double that of the **Western Pipistrelle**, which is much more common to see here in the late evening hours), and the time of day that it was active, caught my attention.

I wasn't able to get any flying pics (its flight was too low, fast, and erratic), but when it disappeared behind the cabin, I snuck around and found it clinging to the side of the structure, just settling in for a snooze.

Uncertain of gender...don't know, didn't ask!



Family **EQUIDAE** (Asses)

Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus carissima*)

Measurements:

Average Length: 3.5" Wingspan: 9" Weight: .25 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

glossy tan to dark brown fur, buff below; dark-brown naked face, short snout, sloped forehead; somewhat long, brown ears

Notes:

common; 1 of 5 subspecies spread across most of NA excluding southernmost tier; *M. l. carissima* ranges from e CA east to the Dakotas, and the Canadian border south to s NV/AZ/NM; mostly nocturnal; feeds on various arthropods (mosquitoes, flies, spiders, etc.); also known as **Little Brown Bat**, not related to the **Big Brown Bat**; females larger than males; highly colonial; considered **Threatened** due to its susceptibility to a fungal disease called "white-nose syndrome"

Mojave presence: uncommon



Goodsprings, Nevada



Family **VESPERTILLIONIDAE** (Vesper Bats)

Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*)

Measurements:

Average Length: 5.4" Wingspan: 15" Weight: .9 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

large size; dark brown pelage frosted with white tips; ears short, round, naked, with black rims; blunt nose; brown furry tail membrane

Notes:

common; usually solitary; spends summer in woody habitats throughout most of NA (males summer in sw US, females everywhere else), winters in central SA; mostly nocturnal; feeds primarily on moths; females larger than males

Mojave presence: migration



frosted fur



roosts in foliage

Corn Crk; DNWR; NV



stocky body

Corn Crk; DNWR; NV



prominent thumbs

Corn Crk; DNWR; NV