

Night Flight Chronicle

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BATS
Sacramento Valley & Foothills
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Greetings,

Included in this newsletter:

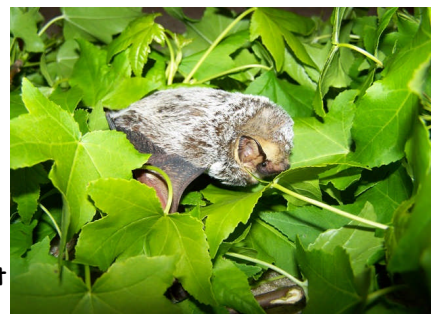
[Winter Bats](#)

[Common Questions](#)

[Presentations](#)

Winter bats in Northern Ca

Winter is approaching and we frequently are asked about bat activity during this time of year. There are many different species of bats throughout Northern California. Even within a species, individuals may have different methods of coping with winter.



Bats on the Coast and in the Central Valley may stay. The weather conditions are such that there is enough food to support many bats. When the weather is poor and the insect load is low, the bat can go into "torpor". Torpor is a process of resting where the body temperature decreases and the heart-rate slows. Torpor can last for a few hours or several months. Deep torpor is called hibernation.

Many bat species will migrate relatively short distances to find appropriate conditions for long term torpor. Some settle into caves, others in trees and the red bat will hide in the dead leaves on the ground. Be aware when raking after winter ends.

Many of the Mexican free-tailed bats will migrate long distances to warmer areas. These bats do use torpor, but they do not hibernate. There are some roasts in the area that have Mexican free-tailed bats all year.



As for bats needing care, we do still receive calls. Most are questions about what to do with the accidental awakening of winter bats. As winter progresses, some bats also suffer from hunger or dehydration due to periodic awakenings. For the most part, though, we see considerably fewer bats through the winter either in the wild, or in need of help.

Two of the most common questions we receive at NorCal Bats are the following:

I have a bat or bats living in my house, how do I convince them to leave without hurting them?

At <http://www.norcalbats.org/information.shtml> you can find [Bats in Buildings: An Information and Exclusion Guide](#) which is an excellent source for people who want to take care of this issue on their own. This also includes a list of several local businesses that do this work professionally.



I have or want a bat house. How do I get bats to move in?

At <http://www.norcalbats.org/information.shtml> you can find several articles about bat house success, including [Yolo County Bat House Study, R.F. Long](#) which describes a local study which asks that question. Basically, location!

Think about putting your bat house up this winter so it will be there when the bats become active and return to their spring and summer roosts.

Bat Presentation dates for 2010 are beginning to fill. Remember to book early to get your favorite time of the year.



<http://www.norcalbats.org/participate.shtml#present>

Corky - "Corky" Quirk

NorCal Bats - Rescue and Education

Sacramento valley and foothills

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Permitted through: [Wildlife Rehabilitation & Release](#)

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