

California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Interagency Wildlife Task Group

POCKETED FREE-TAILED BAT

Nyctinomops femorosaccus

Family: MOLOSSIDAE
M040

Order: CHIROPTERA

Class: MAMMALIA

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DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

The pocketed free-tailed bat is found in Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial cos. This species is rare in California, but is more common in Mexico. Habitats used include pinyon-juniper woodlands, desert scrub, desert succulent shrub, desert riparian, desert wash, alkali desert scrub, Joshua tree, and palm oasis.

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: Feeds on flying insects detected by echolocation high over ponds, streams, or arid desert habitat. Large moths are the principal food, but a wide variety of insects is taken (Easterla and Whitaker 1972). Flight is swift and direct.

Cover: Prefers rock crevices in cliffs as roosting sites. Must drop from the roost to gain flight speed.

Reproduction: Reproduces in rock crevices, caverns, or buildings. Gives birth to one young per year, usually in early July (Sidner 1999).

Water: During dry seasons, utilizes water sources with open access and large surface areas from which to drink (Sidner 1999).

Pattern: Prefers rocky desert areas with high cliffs or rock outcrops.

SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: Nocturnal. Probably active yearlong. Emerges from the roost well after sunset, after solar radiation has ceased (Gould 1961). Activity is curtailed by rain.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: Probably a yearlong resident.

Home Range: No data found.

Territory: Usually roosts in small groups. A group of 50-60 was found in San Diego County (Krutzsch 1944b).

Reproduction: Young are born in June and July, peaking in late June. The single litter has 1 young. Lactation occurs in July and August.

Niche: A swift, high-flying species; probably a moth specialist. An instance of predation by the Iyre snake is described by Krutzsch (1944a).

Comments: The status of this species in California is poorly known, but it appears to be rare. The roost described by Krutzsch (1944b) is abandoned, although an active roost is located in Anza Borrego State Park. A California Species of Special Concern (Williams 1986).

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M040

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