



WBWG

NAVIGATION



Western Bat Species

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Mollosidae, or free-tailed bats, belong to the order Chiroptera. The family's common name is derived from a length of "free" tail, projecting beyond the end of the uropatagium – the membrane that connects the base of the tail to the hind legs. The tail is usually best seen when resting. A special ring of cartilage slides up or down the tail vertebrae by muscular action to stretch or retract the tail membrane. This gives many species a degree of fine tuning in their flight maneuvers to rival their day-flying ecological equivalents, such as swifts, swallows, and martins. As a result, these animals include the fastest-flying of all bat species among their number.

+ [Eumops perotis | greater mastiff bat](#)

+ [Eumops underwoodii | Underwood's mastiff bat](#)

+ [Nyctinomops femorosaccus | pocketed free-tailed bat](#)

+ [Nyctinomops macrotis | big free-tailed bat](#)

+ [Tadarida brasiliensis | Mexican free-tailed bat](#)

Mormoopidae, contains bats known generally as mustached bats, ghost-faced bats, and naked-backed bats. They are found in the Americas from the southwestern United States to southeastern Brazil. They are distinguished by the presence of a leaf-like projection from their lips, instead of the nose-leaf found in many other bat species. In some species, the wing membranes join over the animal's back, making it appear hairless. The tail projects only a short distance beyond the membrane that stretches between the hind legs.

+ [Mormoops megalophylla | ghost-faced bat](#)

Phylostomidae (New World leaf-nosed bats) represents one of the most morphologically diverse families, comprising approximately 160 species of more than 55 genera. These extraordinary bats, whose scientific and common names derive from their 'leaf-shaped' noses, occur throughout Central and South America, from Mexico to northern Argentina.

+ **Choeronycteris mexicana** | Mexican long-tongued bat

+ **Leptonycteris curasoae** | lesser long-nosed bat

+ **Leptonycteris nivalis** | Mexican long-nosed bat

+ **Macrotis californicus** | California leaf-nosed bat

Vespertilionidae, the taxonomic family of “evening bats,” “vesper bats,” or “common bats” compose the largest family within the order Chiroptera, containing approximately 407 species of 48 genera. As the second largest mammalian family, vespertilionids occur on every continent except Antarctica. The majority of these species possess a simple face and relatively small eyes, are insectivores and rely primarily on echolocation.

+ **Antrozous pallidus** | pallid bat

+ **Corynorhinus townsendii** | Townsend's big-eared bat

+ **Eptesicus fuscus** | big brown bat

+ **Euderma maculatum** | spotted bat

+ **Idionycteris phyllotis** | Allen's big-eared bat

+ **Lasionycteris noctivagans** | silver-haired bat

+ **Lasiurus blossevillii** | western red bat

+ **Lasiurus cinereus** | hoary bat

+ **Lasiurus xanthinus** | western yellow bat

+ **Lasiurus ega** | southern yellow bat

+ **Myotis auriculus** | southwestern myotis

+ **Myotis californicus** | California myotis

+ **Myotis ciliolabrum | western small-footed myotis**

+ **Myotis evotis | long-eared myotis**

+ **Myotis keenii | Keen's myotis**

+ **Myotis lucifugus | little brown myotis**

+ **Myotis occultus | Arizona myotis**

+ **Myotis septentrionalis | northern myotis**

+ **Myotis thysanodes | fringed myotis**

+ **Myotis velifer | cave myotis**

+ **Myotis volans | long-legged myotis**

+ **Myotis yumanensis | Yuma myotis**

+ **Parastrellus hesperus | western pipistrelle**

ABOUT WBWG

We are a colony of agencies, organizations and individuals passionate about bat research, management, and conservation :)

As a 501(c)(3) public charity, donations to the Western Bat Working Group are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.

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