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

LONG-EARED MYOTIS *Myotis evotis*
Family: VESPERTILIONIDAE Order: CHIROPTERA Class: MAMMALIA
M025

Written by: J. Harris
Reviewed by: P. Brown
Edited by: S. Granholm, R. Duke

DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

The long-eared myotis is widespread in California, but generally is believed to be uncommon in most of its range. It avoids the arid Central Valley and hot deserts, occurring along the entire coast and in the Sierra Nevada, Cascades, and Great Basin from the Oregon border south through the Tehachapi Mts. to the Coast Ranges. This species has been found in nearly all brush, woodland, and forest habitats, from sea level to at least 2700 m (9000 ft), but coniferous woodlands and forests seem to be preferred.

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: The long-eared myotis feeds on a variety of arthropods including beetles, moths, flies, and spiders. It takes more beetles than other myotis species, and there is some evidence that it takes more beetles when it is sympatric with M. auriculus (Black 1974, Husar 1976). Insects are caught in flight, gleaned from foliage, or occasionally taken from the ground. Foraging flight is slow and maneuverable. This species is capable of hovering. It forages among trees, over water, and over shrubs. Usually less than 12 m (40 ft) above the ground.

Cover: This species roosts in buildings, crevices, spaces under bark, and snags. Caves are used primarily as night roosts. The long-eared myotis roosts singly, or is found in fairly small groups.

Reproduction: Nursery colonies of 12-30 individuals are found in buildings, crevices, snags, and behind bark.

Water: This species has a relatively poor urine concentrating ability, and probably requires water (Geluso 1978).

Pattern: Feeds along habitat edges, in open habitats, and over water.

SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: Nocturnal. Hibernates. The long-eared myotis emerges late in the evening. Little is known of its winter habits.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: Probably makes local movements to suitable hibernacula.

Home Range: No data found.

Territory: No data found.

Reproduction: Mating probably occurs in the fall. The young are born from May-July, with a peak in June. The single yearly litter averages 1 young. Most young are flying by early August. The maximum recorded longevity is 22 yr (Tuttle and Stevenson 1982).

Niche: The long-eared myotis takes more beetles than most myotis species, especially when M. auriculus is present (Husar 1976).

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