

# The Mexican Fishing Bat

*A marine bat that plays by a different set of rules*

Dr. Dave Johnston

The Mexican fishing bat (*Myotis vivesi*), the ecological equivalent of a storm petrel, is likely the only fully marine bat in the world. Most of the world's population occurs on a single island with no fresh water and no trees. With hot summers, only mildly cool winters, and in a highly productive marine environment, we were surprised to discover individuals went into torpor, and in some cases, hibernation. Finding prey in the open sea presents unique challenges for a bat, especially given there is likely little ancestral development for this niche in bats. While looking for techniques this bat uses to detect its prey, we found evidence that suggests the bat exhibits flocking behavior as it forages over the vast stretches of the Sea of Cortez. In addition to describing this species' unique biology, I will also discuss using novel technologies and share some high adventures.



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