

Spotted bats in Northern Arizona

Hello everyone. I'm happy to announce that there will be a Bat Blitz focusing on spotted bats (*Euderma maculatum*) this June 19-22, slight chance to add the night of the 23 depending on capture success of the previous nights. The operation is a collaboration between Arizona Game and Fish (AZGFD) and the Bat Ecology and Genetics Lab at Northern Arizona University (NAU). The main objective is to catch spotted bats for diet research using genetics, but there are about 15 other species likely for the area. Other target species for genetic analysis of diet are Allen's lappet-browed bat (*Idionycteris phyllotis*), big free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops macrotis*), and western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis*). There will be two to three teams netting the most likely places for spotted bats and other target species. I know you know that nothing in mammal watching is 100% guaranteed, but this is as close as you can get. I bet we will have several spotted bats.

All the people attending are researchers, and we are just considering 4-6 people outside AZGFD and NAU to join. My advisor Carol Chambers and I want to request \$750.00 dollars as a donation for the 4-5 nights. Those funds will be used to help me start my bat research program following the completion of my PhD. I will be working in Nicaragua in January 2023 (more info on this soon). We ask that you handle your own lodging, food, and transportation to one of the nearby hotels (Lee's Ferry Lodge at Vermillion Cliffs supports condor recovery and other wildlife efforts so is a great selection but other nearby options are Cliff Dwellers Lodge and Marble Canyon Lodge). We will provide the transportation from the hotels to the netting sites.

For those interested on this, here is a previous report, we will most likely focus on the North rim of the Grand Canyon this time. <https://www.mammalwatching.com/2018/07/12/searching-spotted-bat-northern-arizona/>

This is a very neat area with great landscapes in Marble Canyon, Vermillion Cliffs, and the North rim of the Grand Canyon. You will have plenty of time during the day to explore on your own if you wish and look for other non-bat mammals in the area including pronghorn, white-tailed antelope squirrels, spotted ground squirrels, chisel-toothed kangaroo-rats, badger, Kaibab squirrels, bison, canyon mouse and more. California condors will be ~20 minutes from your hotel. Since I will be working with bats, I can't promise to join daytime activities but whenever possible I will. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions (José Gabriel; jm3934@nau.edu)



Two of the rarest bats of North America, Spotted bat (left) and the Western Mastiff bat (right).