

**Southern Arizona Bat Watchers  
Southern Arizona Nighttime Hummingbird Feeder Monitoring Study.**

We are delighted to report the successful completion of the 2010 hummingbird feeder bat monitoring study in the southern Arizona! In 2010 we had over 120 volunteers in southeastern Arizona participate in this watchable wildlife program. Our network of volunteers extended from Marana to Nogales from Wilcox to Douglas and many communities in between. We received reports of bats visiting hummingbird feeders from almost half of the volunteers across southern Arizona.

The data submitted by all of the volunteers allowed us to identify areas where specialized radio telemetry techniques were utilized to track individual bats and locate unidentified critical day roost across southern Arizona! Through this project and the efforts of our citizen scientists we are better able to protect the endangered Lesser long-nosed bats (*Leptonycteris yerbabuena*) in southern Arizona. During the 2010 season our citizen scientist documented the distribution and seasonal time period when these nighttime bandits are visiting our feeders. Our volunteers documented the average arrival date of September 3<sup>rd</sup> and the average departure date of October 20<sup>th</sup> for lesser long-nosed bats in southeastern Arizona.

We hope that the 2011 season will be as successful as past years and that all of our outstanding citizen scientists will continue to dedicate their time to make this project a success. We expect to see some interesting patterns in southern Arizona with regards to the *L.yerbabuena*. With the decrease in winter precipitation, the agave bloom (an important forage resource for this species) may not meet its full potential; therefore it is possible that the hummingbird feeders may be even more important forage resource to these nectar feeding bat species. With the possibility of increased visitation to feeders the attentiveness and dedication from volunteers is much needed in helping monitor and answer important questions about these bats.

As the monitoring season approaches, please remember to keep a vigilant eye on your hummingbird feeders and submit your data online. The information you give us greatly helps us understand these nectar feeding bats. Remember if you are not detecting bats at your feeders this is still important information and we encourage you to report this data. Please don't give up, we have volunteers that have monitored for multiple years and bats are not detected each year.

If you are interested in volunteering again or know of someone who is interested you can visit the Town of Marana website ([www.marana.com/bats](http://www.marana.com/bats)) to get more information. During the 2011 season we will have volunteers available to reply to your questions and follow up on your concerns. The successes of the 2010 season are directly attributed from the countless hours volunteers have devoted night after night. We extend our sincere appreciation to those of you who assisted with this project, and encourage you to continue to participate in this monitoring study year after year.

Thank you again and hope to hear from you all again this coming season!

