



IRVINE-LAGUNA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

Connecting Habitats from Mountains to Coast

A PROJECT OF LAGUNA GREENBELT, INC.

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SYNANTHROPIC SPECIES

By Giovanni Di Franco



Many of us are familiar with urban wildlife species such as raccoons, rats, and crows that regularly dwell in our neighborhoods, streets, and city centers. Did you know that some species we frequently describe as pests thrive by living in proximity to people? Urban creatures that benefit from sharing an environment with humans are synanthropes or synanthropic species.

Rats and raccoons forage through our trash bins for food. Crows take advantage of a fallen sandwich on the sidewalk. Bats roost under bridges and under the eaves of homes. Coyotes scavenge through neighborhoods at dusk and dawn for their next meal. These behaviors usually cause hostility and the unfavorable emotions of annoyance and fear.

With a different perspective and some knowledge of the positive impacts of synanthropes, people can grow to appreciate our urban wildlife. Bats are efficient at controlling the populations of insects, especially mosquitos. Coyotes control rodent populations. A raccoon's flexible diet reduces the decomposition time of leftover kills from larger predators, eliminating odors and the probability of other visiting critters.

These species play roles in controlling ecosystem health and balance. While people will not welcome these furry and feathered friends into their homes, it is important to remember they are our neighbors and a component of our urban ecology.

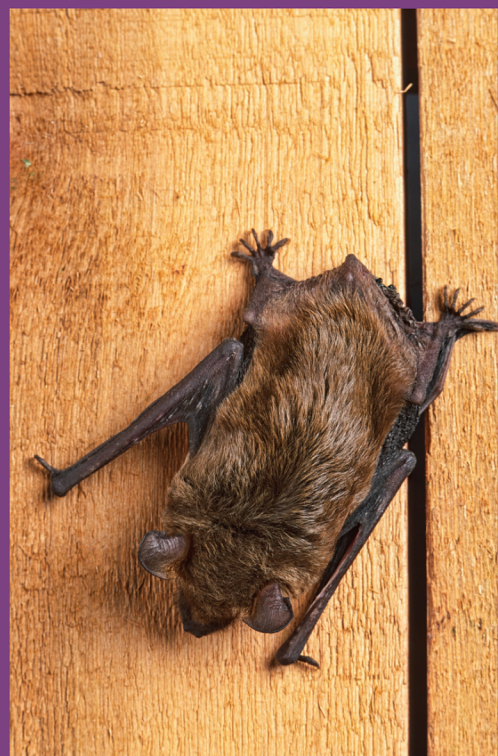


Photo of the big brown bat, native to North America.

Additionally, during the month of October, it is fun to think how so many vendors have incorporated “pests” into the Halloween season. Rats are associated with abandoned homes. Crows rest on the shoulders of witches. And spider webs are strewn across doorways and walls. This Halloween, be mindful of your decorations and just think about how many of these "spooky" creatures might be residing happily somewhere in your neighborhood.

And let us not forget that raccoons are the most fashionable of the bunch with a costume mask worn year-round.



#BATAPPRECIATIONMONTH



CALIFORNIA MYOTIS

Can live up to 15
years of age!



MEXICAN FREE- TAILED BAT

As great fliers, they
can easily reach
flight speeds over
60 mph!



CANYON BAT

This is the smallest
bat in North
America!

Photos sourced from Bat Conservation International

Photo Credit: Michael Durham/Minden Pictures & J. Scott Altenbach

EVENTS THIS OCTOBER!



8TH ANNUAL
**P-22 DAY
FESTIVAL**
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023
11 AM - 4 PM | GRIFFITH PARK
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



ANNENBERG WILDLIFE CROSSING



FOR A FULL LIST OF EVENTS, VISIT:
URBANWILDLIFEWEEK.ORG
ARTWORK: MONTE DOLACK - DOLACK.COM



#SAVELACOUGARS

Drive out to LA to celebrate the life and impact of P-22, an ambassador for urban wildlife and the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Corridor!



**LAGUNA
CANYON
FOUNDATION**

Family Hike

October 29 from 3 - 5 PM

To register and learn more visit:

<https://lagunacanyon.org/event/family-hike-2/2023-10-29/>



Twilight Fremont Canyon Coal Mine Hike
Halloween, October 31 from 3 - 6 PM

To register and learn more visit:
<https://www.ocparks.com/events/twilight-fremont-canyon-coal-mine>

FUN FOR THE FAMILY

Halloween Zoo-tacular

Saturday, October 28
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

OC Zoo
1 Irvine Park Road
Orange, CA 92869

For more information:
(714) 973-6846 or visit
[ocparks.com/oczoo](https://www.ocparks.com/oczoo)



Join us for Halloween fun at the OC Zoo! Activities include a scavenger hunt, trick-or-treating, & spooky crafts for kids! The first 100 children in costume will receive a free gift! Come see zoo animals receive treat-filled pumpkins throughout the day! Reservations are not needed.



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Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. works to preserve open space and support wildlife that depend on local habitats to thrive.

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