

Whether weather matters: Towards better monitoring of long-tailed bats.

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There has been much debate regarding when, or more specifically at what temperature, bats are active and when monitoring should take place. But is temperature even important in predicting bat activity? And which climatic variables are important when deciding when to monitor bat activity? In order to address this uncertainty the New Zealand Transport Agency funded an investigation into the relationship between long-tailed bat activity and weather.

We investigated this relationship by analysing long-tailed bat recordings and climatic variables collected each month over an entire year in the Central North Island.

We provide insights from this research, and give our recommendations for improved detection rates for long-tailed bat presence-absence surveys.