

Pallid Bat

By Marianne Jones

Appearance

The pallid bat is large and pale, with large ears, large eyes, a simple muzzle, and a yellowish dull coat that is paler towards the hair tips and darker at the bottom. The total length is 92 to 135 millimeters. Females tend to be larger than males.



Habitat

The Pallid Bat is a southwestern species that is found from northern Mexico to the edge of the Canada and U.S. border.

The pallid bat lives in deserts and canyons. In the daytime it roosts in buildings and crevices. Sometimes it lives in caves, mines, hollow trees, and other shelters. Nighttime it roosts in buildings, caves, mines, and cliff overhangs.

Population

In British Columbia only 12 were spotted in 1990. In other places, colonies are usually small and may contain 12-100 bats.



Family

Females may have one to four babies. Newborn bats weigh about 3 g and seem to develop more slowly than other species. Their eyes open at 8-10 days of age and they have hair. Baby bats are flying by 6 weeks of age.

Food

The pallid bat eats crickets, scorpions, and other flightless arthropods.



It also eats moths, froghoppers, June beetles, leafhoppers, and grasshoppers.

Threats

Pesticides are a threat because the pallid bat can be poisoned by insects that have been sprayed with chemicals.