

PALLID BAT

By James Monroe

Appearance

The Pallid Bat has large ears and eyes. They have short pale light brown fur with a white belly. The ears are wide and stretch past the nose when pushed forward. The nose is square with a shallow ridge on top. They have several bumps across the face. The head is large with heavy, strong teeth.



Size

The Pallid Bat measures about 4 1/4 to 5 1/8" in length, with a 15 1/2" wing span. Bats are divided into two suborders: Megachiroptera, meaning large bat, and Microchiroptera, meaning small bat. The largest bats have a 6 foot wing span. The smallest bats are no more than an inch long.

Habitat

The Pallid Bat lives in desert and grasslands habitats. It is friendly and likes to live in buildings. The pallid bat has been found from southern British Columbia to central Mexico and east to central Kansas and Oklahoma. In New Mexico, this bat likes to live in rocky areas.



Family

Pallid Bats have only one baby a year. A baby bat at birth weighs up to 25 percent of its mother's body weight, which is like a human mother giving birth to a 31-pound baby! Babies are cared for in maternity colonies, which are groups of females that live together to help each other take care their young. The mother bat takes care of the baby for many years.

Food

The Pallid Bat eats crickets, scorpions, grasshoppers, beetles, and other insects.



Threats

The greatest threat to bats is people. Activities such as logging, industry, hiking, and rock climbing can bother bats. People are also building houses and farming on land where the pallid bat lives.

Help

People need to limit the amount of land they use to build house, grow crops, or raise cattle. The pallid bats need food and space to survive.

Interesting Fact

Bats sleep hanging upside down. They are able to do this because they have feet that lock around an object. This stops them from falling.

Sources

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