

### **Where's the Food?**

Coyotes use their noses to find food. Eagles use their eyes. But the pallid bat uses its ears. It listens for its food. This bat, with its enormous ears, can hear the hop of a cricket and the scurrying of a beetle. Unlike most bats, which capture flying insects on the wing, the pallid bat swoops to the ground to grab six-legged ground dwellers. It can even grab scorpions, for it is immune to their sting. The bat carries its prey to a safe place to eat what it has caught. Like a person who eats the pizza but leaves the crust, this bat eats only the good parts and leaves behind the wings and legs.

Like all bats, the pallid bat hunts mainly at night and sleeps during the day. Bats do not lie on the ground or perch on a limb when they sleep. Instead, they grab a rocky wall or a piece of barn wood with their hind feet and hang upside down. This is called roosting. The places where bats spend their days—caves, mines, buildings, bridges—are called roosts.

Since there aren't many insects around in the winter, pallid bats get through that hard time by hibernating. During hibernation they live entirely on the body fat they have stored up over the summer. It is important not to disturb hibernating bats. Waking them up causes them to use up quite a bit of their stored fat, and they may not have enough fat left to get through the winter.

For more information on pallid bats, go to:

<http://www.batcon.org>

<http://www.batcon.org/batsmag/v9n3-2.html>

[www.nsrl.ttu.edu/tmot1/antrpall.htm](http://www.nsrl.ttu.edu/tmot1/antrpall.htm)

<http://www.batcon.org/batsmag/v16n1-4.html>

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