

Seba's
Short-Tailed Bat
Carollia perspicillata



Physical Characteristics

- Grey-brown fur covers the body.
- If you compare the bone anatomy of bats with birds and humans, you will see there are some similarities.
- Bats have fingers just as humans do, but their fingers are long in comparison. There is also a membrane between the fingers, feet, and tail that create the wings of the bat.

Size

- Length: 1.8-2.5 inches
- Mass: 15 grams
- Wingspan: 12-14 inches

Lifespan

- Wild: Unknown
- Zoos: 10-12 years

Behaviors

- Activity Cycle: Nocturnal – The bats at the Zoo are on a reverse light cycle in which the exhibit is dark during the day (so guests can see them active), and the lights are on at night.
- Echolocation:
 - Bats use echolocation to locate food and to navigate in the dark.
 - Echolocation is the use of sound waves and echoes to determine where objects are.
 - To do this, bats will emit a sound. When the sound waves hit an object and bounce off, they produce echoes. The reflected sound returns to the bats ears. Bats use the sound of the echo to determine the size of an object, its distance, and its location.
- Social Structure: Live in colonies of tens up to a few hundred individuals.

Diet

- Wild: Feed on fruit of 38 different plant families, may feed on insects, nectar, and pollen when fruit is not available.
- Zoo: Variety of fruit

Reproduction

- Breeding Periods: Two main reproductive periods. One is in June-August that coincides with peak fruit productions. The other is in February-May that coincides with the blooming of flowers.
- Gestation Period: 120 days
- Average Number of Offspring: 1

Habitat and Range

- Habitat: Neotropical forest understory, underground tunnels and caverns
- Range: Extends from Southern Mexico, throughout Central America, and into the Northern 2/3 of South America occurring throughout the entire Amazon River drainage basin and reaching as far south as Paraguay. Also occurs on Caribbean islands such as Saint Kitts and Nevis as well as Trinidad and Tobago.



Conservation

- IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern
- Widespread throughout the Neotropics and highly abundant.
- A large portion of their population lives in protected areas which helps to keep the population relatively stable.

Classification

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Subphylum: Vertebrata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Chiroptera

Family: Phyllostomidae

Genus: *Carollia*

Species: *C. perspicillata*

Interesting Facts

- Seba's short-tailed bats are pollinators and seed distributors.
- Bats are found on every continent except Antarctica.
- Bats are the only mammals capable of true powered flight (not just gliding)
- The name of their Order, Chiroptera, means hand-wing.