



Brazilian Free-Tailed Bat

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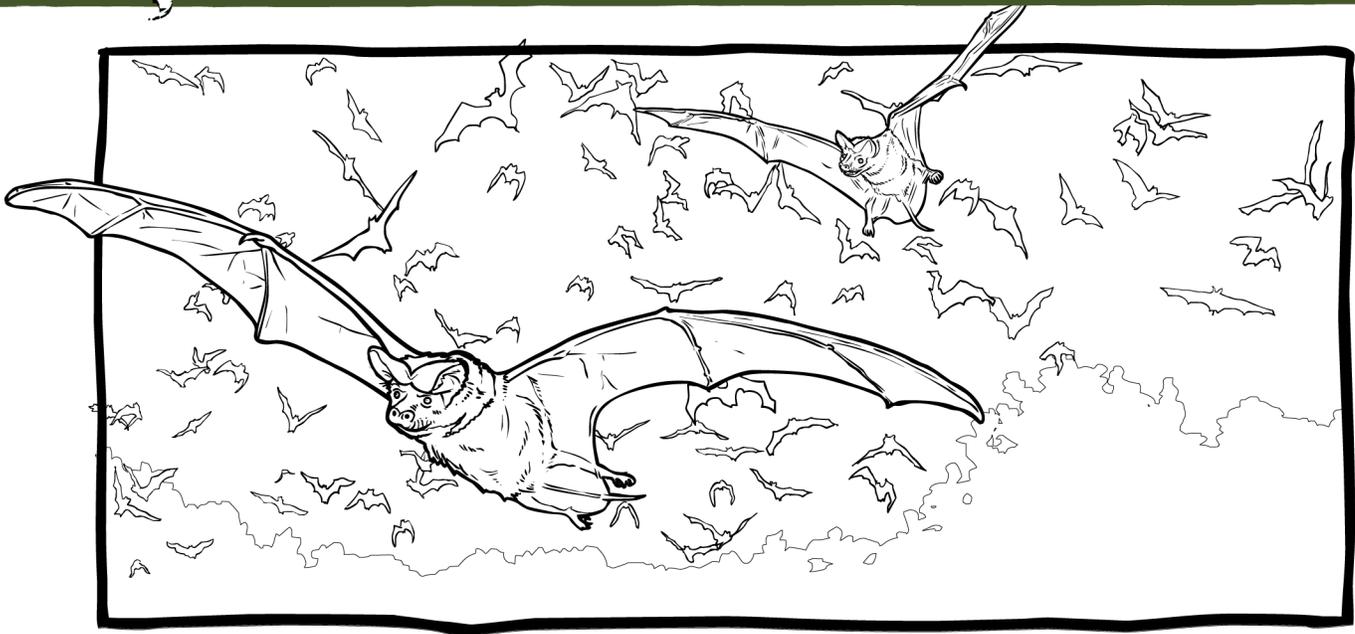
*(Tadarida brasiliensis)*

## Instant ID

- Flying mammal with dark brown to dark gray coloration
- Hairless wings are long and narrow, about 4 1/2 times the length of the body
- Total length up to 4 1/4 inches
- Legs connected to tail by a membrane (sheet of skin)
- Tail almost half the length of the body and extends past the membrane, giving it the name “free-tailed”

## Native Niches

- Roosts during the day in caves, sinkholes and buildings
- Found throughout Florida except in the Florida Keys
- Travels as far as 60 miles during a night



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*(Tadarida brasiliensis)*

## Favorite Foods

- Catches and eats insects in flight
- Uses echolocation (reflected sound waves) to hunt

## Critter Characteristics

- Females give birth in June to a single pup
- Guano (bat poop) can be used as an organic fertilizer
- Bats are not blind
- Echolocation allows bats to move in total darkness

## Population Protection

- Killing or poisoning bats is illegal in Florida
- Putting up bat houses can benefit this species