



FACTSHEET

White Striped Free-tail bat

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Common Name: White Striped
Free-tailed Bat

Scientific Name: *Tadarida australis*

Conservation Status: Not listed under IUCN (2016). All Rottnest Island's fauna is protected under the *Rottnest Island Authority Act 1987*.

Habitat: Woodland, Settlement Area.

Body length: 8.5-10 cm

Weight: 25-40 g

Description:

The White Striped Free-tail Bat is the largest of the Free-tail Bats with a wingspan up to 40 cm. It has brown fur all over and the fur on its underside is a lighter brown. It has wide white stripes which give it its name. Its ears are ribbed and forward-pointing. It has a distinctive bony tail about 5 cm long, with the end part poking out past its tail membrane.

Diet:

Insects.

In the Wild:

White Striped Free-tail Bats fly above the tree canopy at night catching insects.

They are very fast and agile and so feed in the air but will sometimes come down to the ground to look for ground insects.

They are mainly solitary but can roost together in groups up to ten. They like to roost in tree hollows, under loose bark, in dead stumps and the ceilings of buildings.

As bats are active at night in the treetops, they are heard rather than seen. They are 'partial migrants'. This means that some individual bats migrate but some don't and live on the Island all year round.

Threats:

On Rottnest Island:

- Temperature increase caused by climate change
- Tree loss

DID YOU KNOW?

The White Striped Free-tail Bat is an unusual bat because humans can hear their echolocation calls. They make a high-pitched “ting-ting-ting”, making the “ting” sound 1-2 times per second.