

THE WWF WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTRE (C.R.A.S.) OF VALPREDINA (ITALY) AND ITS JOURNEY INTO THE WORLD OF BATS. A RESCUE MISSION FROM “0” TO “2020”

Dott. Cavallari Luca – Health Director CRAS WWF di Valpredina

Dott.ssa Gibellini Anna Maria – CRAS WWF Valpredina and Sportello pipistrelli

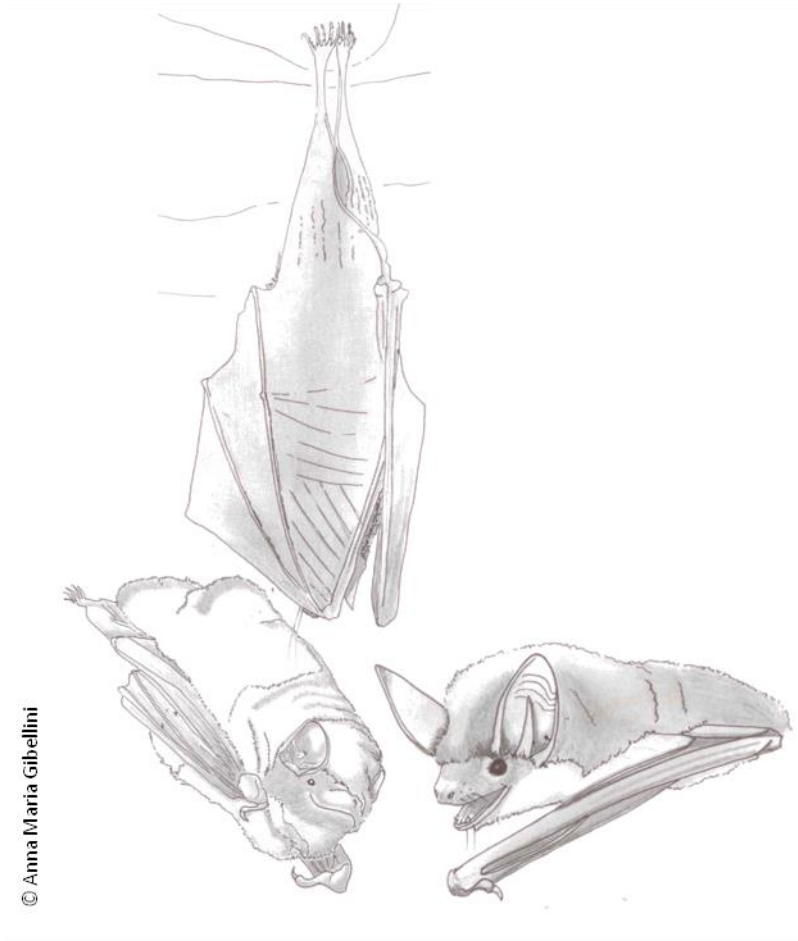
Dott. Mauri Matteo – Chief CRAS WWF di Valpredina



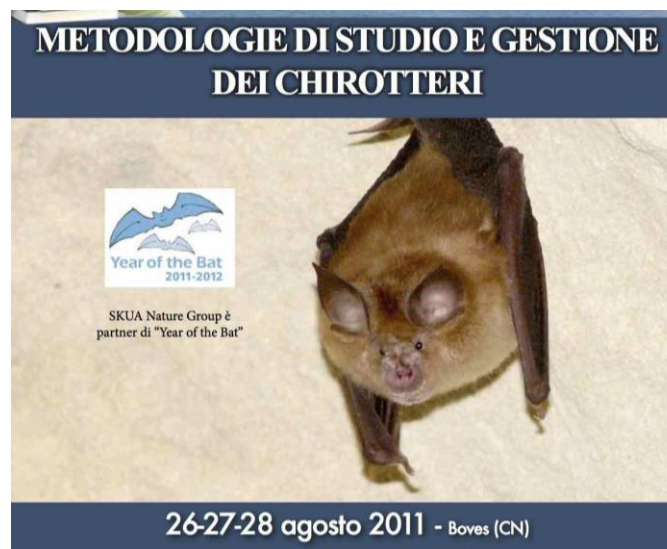
Regione Lombardia



Bats through my life: from a childhood memory
to an object of interest and study.

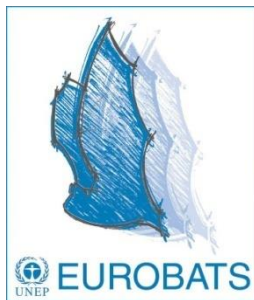


I spent holidays attending courses...



I've found the only bat Group in Lombardy.

We try to raise people's awareness on bats, also according to what is foreseen by Eurobats that in Italy has been implemented as a law.



The Valpredina Rescue Centre serves Lecco, Bergamo and Brescia, an area of 8400 Km²



Wildlife
Centres in Lombardy



Riserva Naturale Valpredina



Sito di Importanza Comunitaria



23.840 animals in about 20 years of work



Riserva Naturale Valpredina



Sito di Importanza Comunitaria

Digital archive from year 2000. What about the bats in our data?

28 species of bats in our region, also antropophile species easy to find for the people but....



Riserva Naturale Valpredina

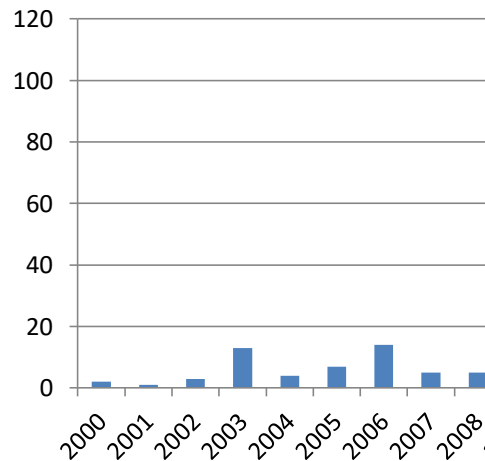


Sito di Importanza Comunitaria

Digital archive from year 2000. What about the bats in our data?

28 species of bats in our region, also antropophile species easy to find for the people but....

Numbers of Bats



<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>
<i>Hypsugo savii</i>
<i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i>
<i>Pipistrellus sp.</i>

Citizens pay low attention to the grounded bats



Low number of bats brought at the Centre



Our experience on the care and recognition of these animals was limited



Riserva Naturale Valpredina



Sito di Importanza Comunitaria

2010 - 41 bats

2011 - 15 bat pups brought concurrently in our Centre
and we start with divulgation activities

Valpredina's Eleven



Our journey started  We discovered that in Lombardy:



- no one in other centres was dealing with bats
- some centre do not accept bats at all



Riserva Naturale Valpredina



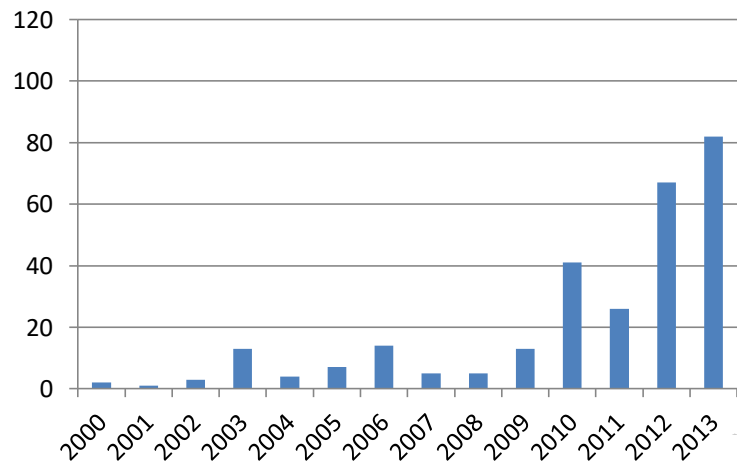
Sito di Importanza Comunitaria

Bats kept coming....



Many bats, new species and new casualties and condition

Numbers of Bats



Riserva Naturale Valpredina



Sito di Importanza Comunitaria

New challenges for our team

Many bats, new species, new diseases.



serious wounds to the wing



some other disease



deficiency
on the diet



bad practice
from others

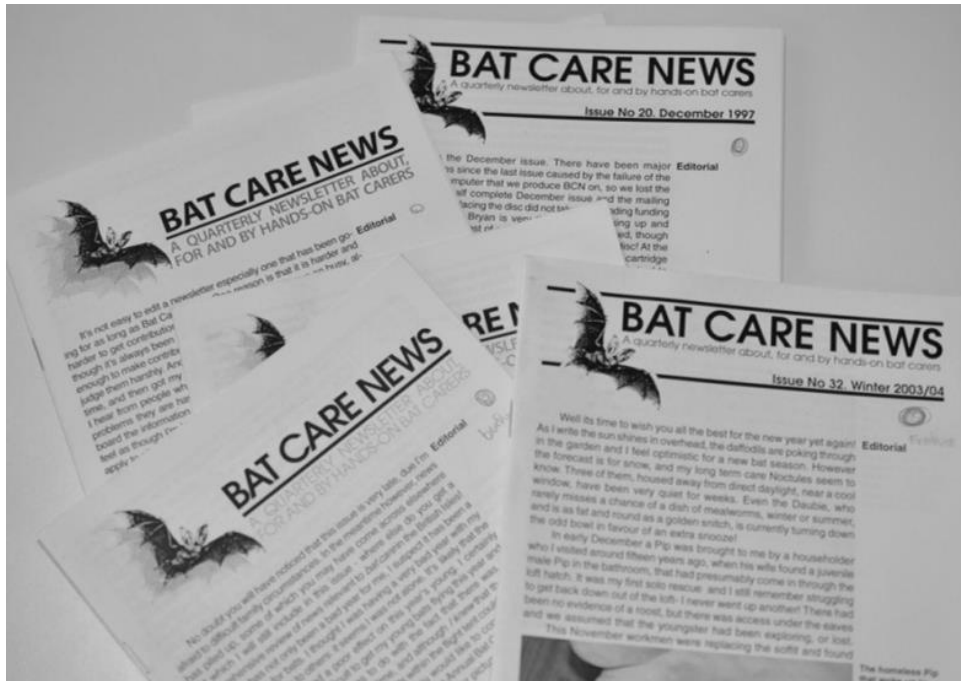


Riserva Naturale Valpredina



Sito di Importanza Comunitaria

2012 - I find Meggie and Bryan Brown



Riserva Naturale Valpredina



Sito di Importanza Comunitaria

The Bat Care Manual and the Bat Care News has been a source of valuable information and example for us.

We have started equipping our Centr following the information finded in manuals with a dedicated flying room, a nursery, better mealworm diet.



Working time
extended
to the night time

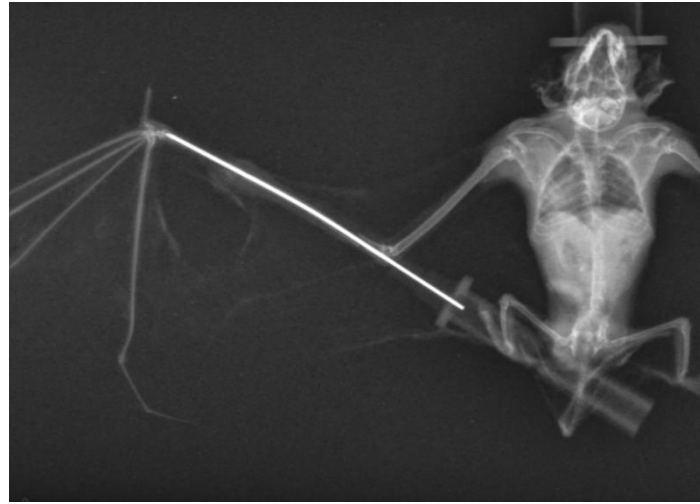
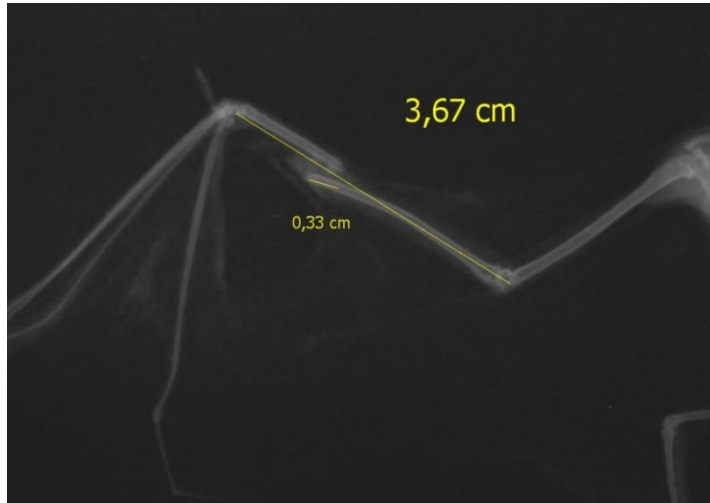


Riserva Naturale Valpredina



Sito di Importanza Comunitaria

The ability of our chief veterinarian, comes from over 20 years of practical experience on many different kind of animals and disease, is a real resource also for the bats in care.



But we have some specific interest, on find the best management of specimens during post-surgery and do better with puppies, ecc.



Riserva Naturale Valpredina



Sito di Importanza Comunitaria

2015 - WWF Italia asked us if we would consider being involved in a bigger project they were arranging together with other important partners .



Life Gestire 2020:

an opportunity to put our work to good use
and improve our Center in the best interest of the bats



Riserva Naturale Valpredina



Sito di Importanza Comunitaria



LIFE GESTIRE 2020 Integrated Project

Just 3 Integrated Projects “Natura” has been financed in Europe.

It will last for 8 years, with 62 action of management, capacity building, monitoring and communication on many aspects of the Rete Natura 2000.

3 of 62 planned actions are focused on bats:

1) Lombardy Bat Action Plan (first in Italy) and practical intervention on creation and protection of bat habitats.

2) Strategy for dissemination of information on bats.

3) From year 2018 improvement of technical skills of n.2 Wildlife Rescue Centre.



we are the main and we have now to work as Bat Centre in the whole Region.



Regione Lombardia



The first 2 years of project are gone and we have worked on:

Information

Divulgation

Bat rescue

Concrete cases
of roosting site
protection



Regione Lombardia

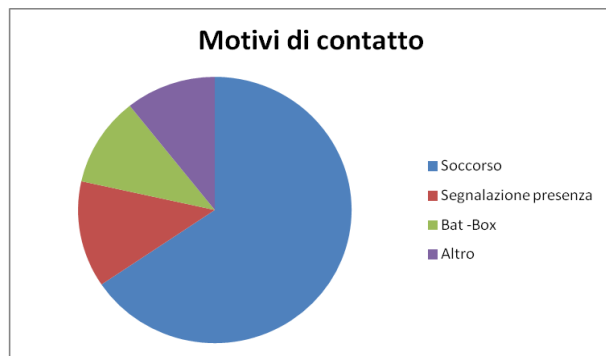


Information activities



Phone, mobile, e-mail and FB H24/7

502 requests from Lombardy, Italy, Norway and Brasil



Report on
dos and donts

To avoid citizen to damage
bats with DIY methods



improv the chances of success of
whole Lombardy's Rescue Centres



Regione Lombardia



Divuligation activities 1722 people contacted (246 students)



Regione Lombardia



Bats Rescue

More and more bats
2016 n.106,
2017 n.113

SCHEDA DI REGISTRAZIONE E DEGENZA CHIROTTERI ID _____

DATI DI RITROVAMENTO

Trovato il _____ da _____
Consegnato il _____ da _____
Provincia _____ Comune _____
Località _____

Via _____ ora del ritrovamento _____
telefono _____ e-mail _____

Provvedimenti presi dopo il ritrovamento

☐ idratazione ☐ alimentazione ☐ farmaci ☐ antiparassitari ☐ altro (tenuto al caldo, ecc.)
note su provvedimenti presi _____

Note sul contesto del ritrovamento (COLONIA, predato dal gatto, incastrato nella tapparella, ecc.) _____

INFORMAZIONI CHIROTTERO

Specie _____
Lunghezza avambraccio _____ Peso _____
☐ maschio ☐ femmina
☐ femmina gravida
☐ femmina in fase di allattamento

Età: _____
A B C D E Adulto

SINTOMATOLOGIA

☐ adulto (senza ferite ma incapace di volare) ☐ giovane non in grado di volare
☐ urine (sangue, colore inusuale) ☐ feci (consistenza, colore, sangue)
☐ danneggiamento patagio (tagli, fori) ☐ ectoparassiti _____ numero ☐ <5 ☐ 5-10 ☐ >10
☐ ferite _____
☐ fratture _____
☐ altro _____

ESITO

☐ Consegnato morto ☐ Decesso il _____ ☐ Eutanasia il _____ ☐ Cattività permanente
☐ Rilasciato in data _____ luogo _____
da _____

We proposed to
adopt a unique
incoming sheet for
all the Rescue
Centres.

Collecting data to write
an identification key for
other Centers

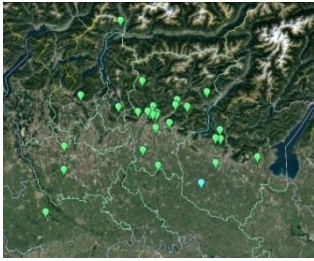


Changes to the materials and
accommodations we use for bats in care.



Regione Lombardia





find out 56 roosting site in the whole region



Suggesting to the home owners time and type of intervention on builgings

“Roost Keepers” mailing list and information sheets



Regione Lombardia



2018 – start the real improvement of our Rescue Centre



+ Big flying cage



+ New materials

+ Collect bibliography of articles and good practices

+ Prosecute to share experience creating good bonds with more experienced working groups



Regione Lombardia





I feel we are part of an unique big team.
The distances between us is very small, let's
say at a bat wing beating distance, so I
hope we can keep in touch.

pipistrelli@valpredina.eu



Regione Lombardia

