

Amazing Bats



Bat Conservation Trust



Bats are brilliant

- Bats are the only true flying mammals
- Oldest bat fossil from 52 million years ago



Our British bats

- 18 native species – 17 of which are known to be breeding in the UK
- One third of all our mammal species!
- All British bats are insectivorous
- All bat species and their roosts are protected under British law



How do bats get around in the dark?

- Bats are not blind but they hunt insects in flight in the dark by sound
- Bats use sound above our hearing (ultrasound) and we need bat detectors to listen to their calls



What do British bats eat?

- **Insects**

- A pipistrelle bat can eat over 3,000 midges in one night

- Noctule bats eat large beetles, cockchafers and moths

- Brown long eared bats specialise in catching moths



Where do bats feed?

- Bats need good foraging habitat near to where they roost
- Bats will feed over water, woodland and open grassland
- Urban gardens can provide good foraging for bats, especially if they include night flowering plants which attract nocturnal insects



Where do bats roost?

- Bats roost in buildings and trees
- Bats increasingly choose to roost with us in our homes



What do bats do through the year?

- Bats emerge from hibernation in March/April
- Put on weight
- Females move to maternity roosts
- Young born in June/July
- 20-30% of mother's weight



What do bats do through the year?

- Bats mate in autumn
- Gain weight prior to hibernation
- Bats hibernate, as few insects active in winter



What do bats do through the year?

- Young are born naked and blind
- Young fed on milk
- Female can carry young bat with her
- Young can fly at around 3 weeks old
- Independent at 6 weeks



Going batty!

Batty things you can do:

- Go on a bat walk
- Make a bat box
- Grow some 'bat friendly' plants in your garden
- Join your local bat group!
- Take part in the National Bat Monitoring Programme



Common pipistrelle

- Common pipistrelle - our smallest and most common bat
- Roosts in buildings, behind hanging tiles or boarding and in cavity walls and also uses trees
- Emerges around 15-20 minutes after sunset
- Small bat, weighs 4-7g
- Wingspan, 18-24cm
- Erratic bouncing flight just above head height



Soprano pipistrelle

- Very similar to common pipistrelle bats
- Roosts in buildings, behind hanging tiles or boarding and in cavity walls and also trees
- Soprano pipistrelles often feed close to lakes and woodland
- Pipistrelle bats can eat 3000 midges per night
- Soprano pipistrelles often roost in large numbers



Noctule

- Large bat - predominantly tree roosting
- Emerges just after sunset, often while still light
- Long thin wings, flies high and fast in straight lines
- Wingspan 32-45cm
- Very loud echolocation calls, this bat is 4 times louder than the legal limit of a night club



Daubenton's bat

- Medium sized bat – also known as the water bat
- Emerges between 30-60 minutes after sunset
- Skims very low over water surface to feed
- Wingspan 23-27cm
- Has large hairy feet



Brown long-eared bat

- Brown long-eared bats are widespread and abundant
- Roosts in houses and barns
- Very quiet bat that sneaks up on its prey
- Wingspan 24-28cm
- Brown long eared bats are often described as 'whispering bats'



Securing the future of bats in a changing world

- **Discovering** how bats are faring and how they use the landscape
- **Taking action** on the ground in partnership with volunteers, professionals and government
- **Inspiring** people to appreciate and support bats and their environment



How you can help bats

○ Join



○ Volunteer



○ Give





What are you
going to do to
help bats?

www.bats.org.uk

Bat Conservation Trust



Many thanks to the following people for the kind use of
their images and footage:

Hugh Clark
Rob Parkin
Tina Wiffen
Pat Morris/Ardea
John Altringham
Hayden Smith

Philip Briggs
Jules Agate
Roger Jiggins
Anne Youngman
Shirley Thompson

© All images and footage are copyright of the individual photographer and the Bat Conservation Trust.
None of the images can be reproduced, distributed or edited without the prior consent of the Bat Conservation Trust.