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This email has been sent to bat group contacts only.  
Please forward this information to others in your group.

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Dear bat group member,

Hello and welcome to the April edition of the Bat Group Bulletin! In this issue you can secure your tickets to National Conference and learn more about the Field and Waterways NBMP surveys.

Please use the interactive contents list to jump to the topics of most interest to you.

1. Early Booking Discounts for the National Bat Conference 2023. ....	1
2. Winner of the Kate Barlow Award 2023. ....	1
3. Surveys with the National Bat Monitoring Programme.....	1
4. Bat Care Mingle.....	2
5. Nominations for the Pete Guest Award 2023.....	2
6. Please Nominate BCT in the Movement for Good Awards.....	2
7. Request for Articles for Spotlight on Bat Groups.....	2
8. Fundraising Campaigns Update. ....	2
9. Reminder – British Wildlife Bat Report Records Wanted! .....	2
10. Reminder – Latest on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Edition of the Bat Survey Guidelines.....	2
11. Key Dates for Your Diary. ....	3
12. Bat Research Papers, Reports & Other Batty Media. ....	4

**1. Early Booking Discounts for the National Bat Conference 2023.** We're pleased to announce that this year's National Bat Conference will be held on **15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> September** at the University of Nottingham. You can now book your early bird discounted in-person tickets! Virtual tickets and full price in person tickets will go on sale on 12<sup>th</sup> June. Check this page for the latest on the programme and booking links: <https://bit.ly/2SyHhRB>. Any questions please email [conference@bats.org.uk](mailto:conference@bats.org.uk).

**2. Winner of the Kate Barlow Award 2023.** This year's winner is Oliver Aylen, Oliver's project will investigate whether fenced reserves in Australia reduce bat predation, harbour increased food resources and/or roost sites. He will also assess whether artificial roosts can be used to encourage bat populations to use fenced reserves. Oliver's project forms part of his PhD thesis at the University of New South Wales, Australia. Read more about Oliver's work here: <https://bit.ly/3Dm7EwV>.

**3. Surveys with the National Bat Monitoring Programme.** The **Roost Count** starts again in June for most species (late May for lesser horseshoe bat). Those already signed up should have received an email linking to the updated survey pack. If you haven't, please check whether it has gone to your junk folder then contact us at [nbmp@bats.org.uk](mailto:nbmp@bats.org.uk). If you are expecting a survey pack in the post, this will be with you shortly, though please do contact us if it doesn't turn up.

We are keen to get roosts revisited that haven't been counted for some years, so if you have counted a roost in the past that would be possible to revisit this year, this will make an important contribution to our species population trend analysis. Thank you to everyone who contributes ongoing long-term counts at roosts, these make the greatest contribution to our ability to produce robust trends from roost counts. If you are not already signed up and know of a roost that you could count, then visit <https://bit.ly/3rYy6lr> for more details and to sign up.

Our long-running heterodyne bat detector surveys take place again throughout July and August. The **Field Survey** (July) involves monitoring common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, noctule and serotine

[Back to contents](#)

while walking a route within a 1km square. We are particularly keen to get more sites surveyed in the north of England, Scotland and Wales. Read more about [how to take part in the Field Survey](#) and select a survey square near you. The **Waterway Survey** takes place in August and involves monitoring Daubenton's bat along a 1km stretch of waterway. This survey is a good place to start if you are relatively new to bat detecting. Read more about [how to take part in the Waterway Survey](#) and select a site near you. [Watch our video](#) on selecting survey sites for the Field Survey and Waterway Survey. See our [bat detector workshops](#) if you would like training on bat detector and survey skills needed to take part in these surveys. If you would like us to arrange training for your bat group, please contact Rosie McCallum at [RMcCallum@bats.org.uk](mailto:RMcCallum@bats.org.uk).

**4. Bat Care Mingle.** On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May there will be an online mingle for those attending the current bat care training course lead by Maggie Brown. We encourage the attendance of experienced carers as it's always a great opportunity to bring together experienced and new bat carers to connect and share knowledge and experiences. Existing active carers (i.e. those not on the current course) can book here: <https://bit.ly/43Vusk7>.

**5. Nominations for the Pete Guest Award 2023.** We are pleased to invite nominations for the Pete Guest Award 2023, which recognises individuals who have made an outstanding practical contribution to bat conservation. The award is presented in memory of Pete Guest, who was an inspirational figure in bat conservation for more than 20 years. For details on how to nominate please see: <https://bit.ly/3hwiCXT>. The deadline is 9am on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June.

**6. Please Nominate BCT in the Movement for Good Awards.** The Movement for Good Awards are a platform for giving, set up by all the businesses that make up the Benefact Group (including Ecclesiastical Insurance – BCT's insurance provider). The more nominations the higher the chance of being drawn, so please nominate BCT using this link: <http://bit.ly/3LnFKTR>. There are 150 awards of £1000 being given in June, and more in September and December. You can also register your own group to receive nominations in the hopes of winning an award: <https://bit.ly/3r8UYpj>.

**7. Request for Articles for Spotlight on Bat Groups.** We'd love to hear stories from your bat group to feature in the Spotlight on Bat Groups section of BCT's membership magazine, Bat News. It can be about any bat group activities such as a recent project, community initiative or bat care. Please send any ideas for stories, or articles between 300-400 words to [batgroups@bats.org.uk](mailto:batgroups@bats.org.uk).

**8. Fundraising Campaigns Update.** Thank you to everyone who donated towards and/or shared the Virtual London Marathon fundraising pages, in total our runners raised nearly £600 for bat conservation. Another huge thank you to everyone who donated and/or shared our 'Bats Need Friends' Green Match Fund campaign – we reached our target and raised nearly £10,500!

**9. Reminder – British Wildlife Bat Report Records Wanted!** We are in the process of compiling the latest of the twice-yearly bat reports for British Wildlife (for the May issue), including a round-up of notable records from the last 6 months (or longer if there are interesting records that didn't previously get included). Notable records would include vagrants, species discovered outside their typical range, new records of our rarer species, or anything that's a bit unusual or unexpected. Precise locations won't be published unless you feel this is non-sensitive information that is worth including. If you have any records you'd like considered for inclusion in the report please email Philip Briggs at [pbriggs@bats.org.uk](mailto:pbriggs@bats.org.uk). The deadline for records for this edition is **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May**.

**10. Reminder – Latest on the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Bat Survey Guidelines.** Updates on the Bat Survey Guidelines and IR Bat Survey Guidelines were given at the National and English Regional Bat Conferences in 2022 and the Consultant's Forum in 2023. However, we understand that more

communication and regular updates would be welcomed. **We have decided to delay publication of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the guidelines to September 2023** to avoid confusion for consultants and their clients during the busy summer survey period. Please see our website for more information: <http://bit.ly/3Zov1iP>.

**11. Key Dates for Your Diary.** Watch this space for dates and reminders of conferences, BCT training and other events you may be interested in. Please do utilise the extra publicity for your events by getting them added to the [BCT events page](#). For more information about training please see our [training pages](#) or email the training team on [training@bats.org.uk](mailto:training@bats.org.uk). You can also get updates straight to your inbox by signing up to BCT's events mailing list here: <https://bit.ly/3a2gOM0>.

**BCT Events and Training.** BCT is now running a hybrid program of online and in-person events.

- **3<sup>rd</sup> May – Caring for baby bats.** Specialised online evening course looking at the challenges and best practice caring for baby bats. Not an introductory course: <https://bit.ly/3TqCQSe>.
- **10<sup>th</sup> May – Bat Care Mingle.** As part of the bat care training course, we invite experienced bat carers to virtually meet with course participants to share knowledge and experience: <https://bit.ly/43Vusk7>.
- **11<sup>th</sup> May – Bats for Building Professionals.** One day in-person course to increase awareness of responsibilities with regard to bats: <http://bit.ly/3UMgxrr>.
- **16<sup>th</sup> May – Discover your local bats.** Free online NBMP workshop: <http://bit.ly/3M0fOkP>.
- **June – Bats in Churches heritage cleaning workshops.** While primarily targeted at church volunteers, we want to extend the invitation to bat group members too:
  - [Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> June](#): St Margaret of Antioch, Wellington, Herefordshire
  - [Fri 16<sup>th</sup> June](#): Grafham church, St Andrew's, Surrey
  - [Sat 17<sup>th</sup> June](#): St Nicholas, Newton Blossomville, Buckinghamshire
- **8<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> August – Advanced bat survey techniques.** In-person course giving theoretical and practical experience of lures, harp traps, mist nets and radio tracking: <http://bit.ly/3gdx1GG>.
- **4<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> September – Advanced bat survey techniques.** In-person course giving theoretical and practical experience of lures, harp traps, mist nets and radio tracking: <http://bit.ly/3gdx1GG>.
- **15<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> September – National Bat Conference.** Book your early bird place! This year's hybrid National Bat Conference will be held at the University of Nottingham. Check this page to read the latest: <https://bit.ly/2SyHhRB>.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> October – Bat Workers Forum.** Save the date for this year's online event.

**Bat Group Events.** If your bat group would like to promote an online talk that is open to members of other bat groups, then please email [batgroups@bats.org.uk](mailto:batgroups@bats.org.uk) to be included in this section.

- **6<sup>th</sup> May – Using your ears.** NBMP in-person level 2 workshop lead by members of the North Ceredigion Bat Group. More details in the booking form: <http://bit.ly/3Zknp0Q>

**Other Events and Training.**

- **5<sup>th</sup> May – BritBats Symposium.** One day in-person conference presenting academic work, open to anyone. Tickets on sale from 6<sup>th</sup> March and they are currently accepting abstracts: <https://www.britbats.com/>.
- **Ongoing – Bat Acoustics Analysis.** Online course from BatAbility containing 14 modules and more than 15 hours of content to develop your skills in bat call analysis and, if you want, undertake a graded examination at the end of the course. BatAbility are kindly donating at least 6% to BCT for each participant that signs up. <https://bit.ly/3fvgZHa>.

- **Ongoing – Free Charity and Trustee Webinars.** See [gettingonboard.org](http://gettingonboard.org).

**12. Bat Research Papers, Reports & Other Batty Media.** Please note we normally include articles, reports and blogs that are available to read online or download without charge.

- **Bats admitted to wildlife rehabs point to adverse effects of climate change.** Italian study looking at over 20 years of records, showing peaks of admittance correlating with high temperatures: <https://bit.ly/41Yf6ta>.
- **Discovery of a new species of extinct *Icaronycteris* that is the oldest yet.** From the Fossil Quarry deposits in Wyoming, two skeletons of a newly discovered extinct species have been found: *Icaronycteris gunnelli*. There are also the oldest skeletal bat fossils found so far, dating to 52.5mya (older teeth have been found but these are the oldest skeletons). Read the Science article here: <https://bit.ly/3Vceu0X>, or the paper here: <https://bit.ly/40DXhPc>.
- **Increased acoustic animal identification.** An unsupervised methodology for multi-species call recognition from ecological soundscapes, allowing biodiversity assessments without the need for prior knowledge of the species present in the audio recordings: <https://bit.ly/41DjTQY>.
- **Greater mouse-eared use high-risk high-reward hunting strategy.** Hunting ground dwelling but energy rich prey, even though their success rate with airborne prey is higher. Will also mix strategies depending on conditions: <https://bit.ly/3V8BMVp>.

A rolling 12 months of previous bulletins are available on the BCT website at <https://bit.ly/2GGoYRK>.

Best wishes,



Abby Packham  
Bat Groups Officer

If you wish to alter your contact preferences, including to opt-out of receiving future communications from us, please contact us by either calling 020 7820 7193 or emailing [batgroups@bats.org.uk](mailto:batgroups@bats.org.uk), **however if you are receiving this bulletin forwarded to you by your bat group, please contact the bat group directly.**