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

Dear bat group member,

Hello and welcome to the November edition of the Bat Group Bulletin! In this issue you can find the first issue of the Bat Crime Newsletter and explore an album of bat walks.

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1. New Bat Crime Newsletter. From the Bat Crime Priority Delivery Group, containing more information on the group along with figures and examples of investigations: <https://bit.ly/49VDksV>.

2. Updated White-Nose Syndrome Guidance. Ahead of the 2023/24 winter hibernation season, BCT has reviewed the standing guidance for bat workers and bat rehabilitators on white-nose syndrome (WNS). This is available on the BCT website (see: <https://bit.ly/3imnq4l>) where there is also a table that records any suspected cases of *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (the fungus that causes WNS in North America) under investigation by the Animal & Plant Health Agency. Adjacent webpages provide an overview of the current situation in North America (where WNS has now been recorded from 40 USA states and eight Canadian provinces) and background information to the situation here in the UK (where we have recorded the fungus but do not have the syndrome).

3. Change to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. AONBs have undergone a change – in England, Wales and Northern Ireland they are now ‘National Landscapes’, and in Scotland ‘National Scenic Areas’. The change represents an ambitious plan to combat climate change and biodiversity loss in Britain. Read more about the plans and aims here: <https://bit.ly/3sRNOZN>.

4. Adopt-a-Bat in time for Christmas. If you would like to sign up for a gift membership or Adopt a Bat subscription for someone for Christmas, we would encourage you to do so by **9am on Friday 8th December** to allow enough time for the welcome pack to arrive. You can Adopt a Bat [here](#) and sign up for a membership [here](#).

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5. Walking with Bats. Are you missing bat walks this Winter? Mark Ferguson, a wildlife sound recordist, has put together an album of narrated bat walks to share and enjoy. You can find a blog chatting with Mark, and the link to the album, here: <https://bit.ly/3Rv5vYJ>.

6. Bats in Churches Comes to an End. Sadly the Bats in Churches project has come to an end after nearly five years. Thank you so much for everyone who has contributed and supported us to make this project a success! The website (www.batsinchurches.org.uk) is still available with lots of resources to help support churches with bats, to help provide confidence with monitoring church roosts, as well as case studies with information and learnings from project churches. We're also pleased to announce that the Church of England has provided funding for a two-year fixed term role in BCT's National Bat Helpline, with a focus on supporting churches.

7. Call for Information to Assess Interactions of Migrant Bat Species with Offshore Wind Farms.

Following on from guidance compiled on the effects of onshore wind energy on bats in Great Britain, Natural England have commissioned a review to assess migration of bat species and interactions with offshore wind farms. BCT, in collaboration with the University of the West of England and University of Stirling, are currently undertaking this review. In order to comprehensively cover all available evidence, we are calling for any unpublished research, data or case studies in relation to:

- bat migration within and between Europe and the UK,
- information on Nathusius' pipistrelle maternity roosts, captures and ring recaptures (that have taken place outside of National Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project surveys),
- records of 'vagrant' or dispersing bats potentially arrived from Europe,
- information about the interaction of bats with wind turbines (e.g. collision, mortality, disturbance, displacement, avoidance, attraction), both offshore and onshore,
- technology for monitoring bat migration,
- technology and survey methods for monitoring bat interactions with wind turbines,
- measures used to mitigate the impact of wind energy developments and their effectiveness.

If you have any information that you would be willing to share to inform our understanding, please contact jhooker@bats.org.uk.

8. British Islands Bats – Articles Wanted. The editors of British Islands Bats, Tina Wiffen and Lisa Worledge, are now seeking articles for Volume Five (please see Volume Four and previous volumes at <https://bit.ly/47VMyDw>, hosted on the BCT website but please note the publication is independent of BCT). Contributions can come from across the British Islands (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands, and Isle of Man). They can be full length papers to short notes covering anything relevant to bats and bat work. Articles may be on any bat related projects, and the editors particularly welcome submissions about bat group projects and from students undertaking bat research. Please see the webpage for how to submit an article, or email any questions to britishislandsbats@gmail.com. The deadline for contributions to Volume Five is the end of March 2024.

9. 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: <https://bit.ly/3SXVtQQ>. You can also nominate your own bat group if they are a registered charity in the hopes of winning an award.

10. GBatNet Student Intake. GBatNet brings together 18 existing bat diversity networks and affiliated organizations from across the world, with the shared vision of sustainable bat diversity in a changing world. Students are a key part of fulfilling this vision. GBatNet is committed to broadening

participation in STEM in the US and abroad, and encourages application by students from any under-represented and under-served groups. Find out more here: <https://bit.ly/3uEfOk7>. Deadline for applications is **15th January 2024**.

11. Reminder - VBRV Train the Trainers Course 2024. BCT and Natural England will be running a Train the Trainers course in Spring 2024, funded by NE, for those who wish to become a licensed Volunteer Bat Roost Visitor Trainer (CL16). This will be an in-person weekend course held at FSC Preston Montford (Shrewsbury) on 8-10 March as well as some pre-course sessions online. More details including the trainer role description can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3H4J5pP>.

The nomination form is the first stage in the process. Selection will be based on experience, demand and geographical location. Please note: **the nomination form should come from a committee member on behalf of the bat group rather than the individual wishing to attend the course.** Nominations are now open until **15 January 2024**. [Bat Group Committee members can make their nomination using this form.](#)

12. Kate Barlow Award 2024 – Extended deadline. The Kate Barlow Award aims to encourage postgraduate students to conduct a substantive bat research project and to honour the late Dr Kate Barlow's contribution to bat conservation. [Read more about her great achievements here.](#) Applications for the Kate Barlow Award 2024 are now open. An application form and guidance on how to apply are available [on our website](#). The extended closing date for applications is **5pm GMT 4th December 2023**. The winner will be announced in March 2024. For enquiries please contact science@bats.org.uk.

13. 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. You can also get updates straight to your inbox by signing up to BCT's events mailing list here: <https://bit.ly/3a2g0M0>.

BCT Events and Training. BCT runs a hybrid program of online and in-person events.

- **9th Nov–14th December – British bats, their ecology and conservation.** Six-session [online](#) course designed for those new to bats wanting to develop a broader understanding of bat ecology, threats and conservation action: <https://bit.ly/42arupQ>.
- **7th December – BafTaAs.** [Online](#) awards evening including the final Bats in Churches Awards and the Adult and Young Batty Laureates, as well as inducting some new members into the BCT Hall of Fame. Starts at 8pm: <https://bit.ly/3GmcZGY>.
- **23rd March – Midlands Regional Conference.** Save the date, more details to follow on the [hybrid](#) event.
- **13th-15th September – National Bat Conference.** Save the date of the 2024 [hybrid](#) conference.

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 to be included in this section.

Other Events and Training.

- **13th December – Bat conservation and artificial light.** Full day [webinar](#) from the Leibniz-IZW: <https://bit.ly/3GmrkDm>.
- **12th March – 3rd International Bat Research Online Symposium.** Free [online](#) event on replacement roosts for bats at buildings: <https://bit.ly/46TH9fY>.

- **23rd–24th April – Trees, People and the Built Environment 5 Conference.** Hybrid conference to provide a place for built and natural environment professionals to collaborate, with real-world case studies, research, and practical solutions: <https://bit.ly/49yDxlz>.
- **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.

14. 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.

- **Insight into bat wing membrane evolution.** Looking at embryonic development and potential gene involvement: <https://bit.ly/47wkjeY>.
- **Avoiding acoustic jamming.** Dynamically adapt the timing of calls to avoid noise: <https://bit.ly/3GneaGg>.
- **Poor image of bats undermines conservation efforts.** Study of newspaper articles pre-pandemic, assessed for bias, and calls for media to play a proactive role: <https://bit.ly/3Gm8JHm>.
- Commission Chairs of the IUCN call for **holistic united approach to tackle the interdependent climate and biodiversity crises**, ahead of COP28: <https://bit.ly/46AWnWr>.

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, **however if you are receiving this bulletin forwarded to you by your bat group, please contact the bat group directly.**