

Notts Natter

The Newsletter of the Nottinghamshire Bat Group

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Issue Eight – Spring 2014

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NBG and the Nathusius' Project – the story so far.....

So far we have undertaken eleven harp-trapping surveys targeting Nathusius' pips at seven different sites in Notts. These sites were chosen based on the presence of 'Nathusi' records for the site and / or the habitat suitability. In addition, we also occasionally roam beyond the county borders to Rutland Water, where one of the few maternity roosts for this species was located although it hasn't been used since 2010. NBG are actually taking part in this pilot in collaboration with Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group (DBCG), with whom we share the equipment, so occasional visits to Leicestershire water bodies (with some of their bat group members) as well means we have pretty good coverage of the East Midlands.

The Notts sites are as follows: Hoveringham Gravel Pits (HGP; 4 survey visits), Attenborough Nature Reserve (ANR; 3), Clumber Park (CP; 2), Skylarks Nature Reserve (SNR; 1), and Kneeton (K; 1).

The table below shows capture results to date.

Date	Site	Species	Total Bats
20/4	HGP	Mbr Ppyg	2
26/4	HGP	-	-
27/4	CP	Plaur Ppyg (2) Mbr	4
3/5	SNR	Ppyg	1
4/5	ANR	Pn Mbr Mmys	4
7/5	K	-	-

Welcome to the slightly belated Spring Edition of the **Nottinghamshire Bat Group** newsletter. We hope you enjoy our summary of just a few of the things we've been up to. Please also have a look at our events list as there's plenty more to put in your diary. As well as all the interesting outdoor stuff each month we also have an excellent talk lined up at our next indoor meeting on 7th July - Dr Kate Barlow of the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) will be talking us through her work on the separation of common and soprano pipistrelles in the 1990's – something many of us take for granted now! Kate is also the technical lead on the Nathusius' pipistrelle Pilot Project which we cover below.

Before you get stuck into the main newsletter just a quick reminder that we welcome articles on any bat related subject penned by any member; a diverse newsletter is a good newsletter! With that in mind, particular thanks this quarter go to Laura Hammerton, Karyn Haw, Kate Williams, and Ruth Testa for their articles. If you'd like to contribute something, however brief, to the Summer Edition (due in August) please let us know before the end of July. Happy reading..... ☺

Nottinghamshire Bat Group, June 2014

Nathusius' Pipistrelle Pilot Project

Hopefully many of you are now familiar with this national pilot project and the involvement of Nottinghamshire Bat Group (NBG) with it; either through the previous newsletter, indoor meetings, or from attending some of the harp-trapping sessions already undertaken to target this species. The project's main aim is to further our understanding of the ecology, current status, and conservation threats for Nathusius' pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus nathusii*) in Great Britain. The project is being funded by the Peoples Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) and led by BCT with technical guidance also provided by the University of Exeter. The national coordinators and technical leads for the project are Daniel Hargreaves (photograph right) and Dr Kate Barlow, who also provided the training and hold the Natural England licence.



Photo: Nigel Milbourne

Migration patterns of Nathusius' pipistrelle are relatively well known in mainland Europe but the movements of these bats in and out of the UK, and their migration routes and origins, are not known. This project will provide the first attempt to understand the origins of Nathusius' pipistrelles through stable isotope analysis and will contribute to the overall understanding of migration across its distribution.

Nathusius' pipistrelle (shown right), which occurs across large parts of Europe, is uncommon but widespread in the UK. It was considered a migrant winter visitor here until the late 1990s, when a small number of mating and maternity colonies were found (including in Lincolnshire and Leicestershire), which established the species' status as breeding. Since then records have shown peaks of activity in autumn and spring suggesting migratory behaviour and there is also evidence of a small resident population from summer roost records. However, information on the distribution of this species is patchy, data on the status and migration patterns are lacking, and identification of key threats is hampered by this lack of information. For example, Nathusius' pips have been identified to be at high risk of mortality from wind turbines in Europe and have one of the highest recorded mortality rates among species known to be affected by wind turbines; yet the potential impacts of wind turbines on 'Nathusi' in the UK is unknown due to the lack of understanding of this species' behaviour and their activity patterns.



Photo: Hugh Clark / BCT

The pilot project is intended to trial methods using trained and experienced volunteers from selected bat groups to assess status and migratory activity of Nathusius' pips from spring to autumn at large lakes in areas where activity has been previously recorded; this species has shown a habitat association with large water bodies. Data from the NBMP autumn Nathusius' pipistrelle Survey has been used as well as data from other survey work such as regular monitoring using automated

11/5	HGP	-	-
16/5	ANR	Ppip Md (3) Ppyg (3) Mbr (2)	9
17/5	CP	Ppyg (9) Plaur	10
30/5	ANR	Ppyg (2) Mmys	3
31/5	RW	Ppyg (5) Md	6
1/6	HGP	Ppyg (2)	2

A number of bat group members have been along to the above sessions and hopefully enjoyed the experience; as is the nature of wildlife studying some nights were more productive than others as you can see from the table. Certainly in terms of the project though, our most successful night was our first visit to Attenborough Nature Reserve in early May. We were very pleased to have caught and successfully 'processed' a male Nathusius' pipistrelle at probably our best known site for this species in the county. The photos across show the trap where we caught him, and the bat with his identification ring just prior to release; let's hope we see Mr A4071 somewhere again!

Nathusius' pipistrelle BCT info: [http://www.bats.org.uk/data/files/Species Info sheets/nathusiuspipistrelle 11.02.13.pdf](http://www.bats.org.uk/data/files/Species%20Info%20sheets/nathusiuspipistrelle%2011.02.13.pdf)

Debs the Dauby gorging herself on mealworms!



BCT webpage on Daubenton's bat: <http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/-daubentons-bat-815.html>

Bat Records

Recording where we find which bats is an essential aspect of bat conservation; we can't conserve Notts bats and their habitats if we don't know where they are! Please remember to send records of roosts, grounded / injured bats, and from detectors via <http://www.nottsbatgroup.org.uk/recording.html> or to Michael Walker (Chairman) at nottsbatman@gmail.com ☺

Church Porch Surveys

What to look out for?

All you need look for are droppings, staining and feeding remains. This information will help determine if bats are present, what species they are (if you know a bit about bats) and

detectors. The pilot project uses advanced techniques to capture Nathusius' pips without harm; harp-traps with acoustic lures are used and only those persons with experience of these techniques have been chosen to partake in the pilot. Once captured, the breeding status of any Nathusius' pipistrelle is assessed and individuals are marked using forearm rings in the hope of recapture. Fur samples are also taken for stable isotope analysis at Exeter University. In essence, using this advanced technique the latitudinal origin of the bat can be revealed via its diet i.e. has it migrated and approximately where from.

The results of the 2014 pilot project, involving bat groups in five regions distributed across England, will help improve knowledge of this species and potential threats through a better understanding of the provenance of individuals. It will also help develop a protocol for a national study of the status and migratory patterns of Nathusius' pipistrelle, hopefully from 2015 onwards. On the left hand side and below you can see the progress of this pilot project in Nottinghamshire.

Finally, as a teaser of just what this project might help us learn, many of you may have seen an article in the newspapers in December 2013 about an incredible overseas journey by a Nathusius' pip. The article (shown below; thanks to Tony Morris for the copy) can be found [here](#). The bat, a male, was ringed A4030 in October 2012 in Pipe Bay at Blagdon Lake, Somerset. Just over two years later it was found 596 kilometres from where it was ringed, in Holland!

The harp trap where A4071 was caught at Attenborough NR



Article on a Nathusius' pip migration in the Independent:



A4071 before we send him on his way again



Matt Cook (info from BCT project summary by Daniel Hargreaves and Dr Kate Barlow)

Deborah the Dauby

A female Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*) was found grounded at Whatton Prison near Bingham and collected by Matt Cook on 30th March 2014. A kindly prison worker had found her after a short warm spell and although he thought she had been gravely injured after coming in to contact with the razor wire, he called the BCT helpline (0845 1300 228) to see if anyone could help. Upon collection and closer inspection, despite a small amount of blood on her stomach, she seemed largely unharmed if a little shook up from her attempted prison break. The wound was cleaned and she was fed and watered. Whilst Matt was working away, I helped with her recuperation and decided as my first bat care case I should give her a name - Deborah.

An attempted release back at the prison a week later didn't go well for Deborah and unfortunately, after a couple of unsuccessful attempts at take-off, it was decided that she wasn't ready to go. Her condition actually deteriorated a little after this initial release attempt; she lost weight and became dehydrated as she would not feed or drink on her own. I sought the help of our most experienced bat carer, Lynn Victor, and we shared the care. Thanks to Lynn's experience and attention she began to improve and look after herself. After a couple of weeks she gained weight to a whopping 9g and again seemed ready for release. So off we set to Margaret Thurgood's (another very experienced carer) for a test flight.

Unfortunately it seemed her flight muscles weren't strong enough and her release was put on hold again. She was prescribed meal worms and exercise with a view to release before mid-May, just in case she was pregnant.

After a bit more TLC from Lynn, the Collins family, and myself I'm very happy to report that Deborah was finally successfully released on 22nd May ☺ - it just goes to show what a bit of good care and NBG teamwork can do. Thank you to Lynn Victor, Margaret Thurgood, Matt Cook, Barry, Grace, and Paddy Collins who all contributed to the rehabilitation of Deborah!

Laura Hammerton

Church Porch Surveys - more than just bats in the belfry!

A good number of years ago, some members of the bat group undertook surveys of a modest number of church porches within the County. I was one of them and really enjoyed combining my interest in bats with the opportunity to have a nosey around some fantastic buildings. So with this in mind, Kate and I thought other members of the group would also like to have a go.

The beauty of this survey is it is relatively quick and you can do at any time of the year and it can fit in well with other priorities; You may be on a walk (to the pub!) and happen to pass an interesting looking village church and you can do a minor detour and report back on the forms later if you

roughly how big the roost is.

If the church happens to be open, then you could extend your visit to look inside for signs of evidence of presence. Michael has kindly offered to run a training session to look at this in more detail if there's enough interest. If anyone is interested, please let us know on the email address below and we can co-ordinate.



Recording Data

We have produced a brief and easy to follow methodology of what to look for and Michael has created a recording form.

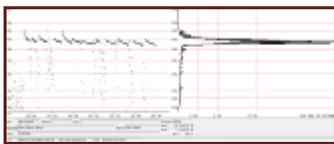
Click [here](#) for BCT's Bats and Churches webpage.



We would like to say a big thank you to *Cake Eaters Anonymous*. This is a charity cake club which Ruth Testa belongs to; they meet once every couple of months, bringing cakes they've baked, and raising money for various charities. In February they raised £112 for the bat group, which is to go towards bat care. If anyone wants to know more on what *Cake Eaters Anonymous* are about then please go to the Facebook page!



A Nathusius' pipistrelle sonogram shown in AnaloookW



If you're relatively new to bat surveys and wish to try a little fieldwork with some online tutorials on subsequent analysis of your calls, why not get involved with **BCT's National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP)**. Click [here](#) for more info on this very important 'citizen science' project.



haven't got them with you. What could be easier!? Although combining pubs and bats could result in some interesting data....

Churches are fascinating ancient buildings providing plenty of nooks and crannies for bats to optimise and the surrounding habitat of grave yards and village/ town gardens provide hunting habitat close by. The porches of Norman churches are stone built and of particular interest to us although, porches of any age could provide ideal roosting potential.

Churches are now sadly often locked for security, making access difficult for surveying; The church porch however is often open. Nottinghamshire comprises 223 Church of England churches so there are plenty for us all to have a look at.

Some have been surveyed by the group before although not for over five years; most we have no records for at all. So let us know what church you fancy surveying and we can let you know if it was done in the last two years (although all visits would still be worthwhile!), or we can allocate you a church within your given search radius if you would prefer.

Want to get involved??

All you need to do is drop us an email and so say where you fancy surveying, or that you want a church allocating to you (although we can't promise it won't be locked when you get there.....). We will then send you the forms you need to fill in and return to us for uploading onto the database.

Email us via churchporchsurvey@nottsbatgroup.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you soon

Karyn Haw and Kate Williams

Bat Group Membership Update

At the end of the 2013 bat group year we have a staggering 75 members, and we seem to be growing on a daily basis! From the questionnaires which (most) of you have now completed, we have a good range of abilities, with lots of members wanting to help with bat care, surveys, and training to be roost visitors. I will be sharing this information with other members of the committee shortly, so if you haven't filled the form in yet, there is still time to get it back to me!

Thanks to those of you who have already paid your subs for this year (our membership year runs from the 1st May); I'm hoping there'll still be a few more renewals over the next few weeks. As we have grown so much recently some of our Members Only events (please see attached events list) may start to get oversubscribed. Preference in that case will go to paid up members - so a great reason to pay up! ☺

Please get in touch (membership@nottsbatgroup.org.uk) should you have any membership enquiries

Ruth Testa (Membership Secretary)

Recent Workshops

NBG had a relatively busy March this year. Two training sessions were held in preparation for the active season with workshops in bat sound analysis and bat care.

Bat Sound Analysis

The bat sound analysis workshop was held on 1st March 2014 at Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust HQ and concentrated on the theory of echolocation and analysis of files using the Analoook software. The session was run by Michael Walker with Chris Turner acting as his glamorous assistant.

Topics covered included types of bat calls e.g. Frequency Modulation (FM) and Constant Frequency (CF) and how to identify which bat is making the call by looking at whether the call is FM, CF or a combination of both. Also covered were the peak, maximum and minimum frequency of a call, call repetition and length, the inter-pulse interval (IPI) and how bat calls differ depending on the habitat they are foraging in.

After learning about the theory of bat sound, the group used the Analoook software, which is free to download off the internet, to have a bash at identifying the species making the call.

The event was attended by just under twenty budding analysts and was greatly received.

If you missed the course, all is not lost. The book by Jon Russ 'British Bat Calls: A Guide to Species Identification' is a great place to start for getting to grips with the identification of bats by their echolocation calls.

If you attended the course (or didn't but know how to use Analoook) and would like to get involved in analysing some files for the Group, please contact Michael Walker for access to our Dropbox folder.

Bat Care

The bat care workshop was held as a refresher prior to the onset of the 'silly season' and following the joint NBG and DBCG event held back in November 2012. The session was presented by Lynn Victor, Margaret Thurgood and Rebecca Dicks at the Attenborough Nature Reserve Visitors Centre on 8th March 2014. Matt Cook and Peter Cornish were also on hand to offer input.

After initial introductions, the group learnt about bat care protocol including what to do when collecting an injured bat, public relations, rabies vaccinations, when to seek veterinary attention, food, drink and medication, bat anatomy, recording forms, legislation and licensing.

A demonstration of how to feed and water a captive bat was given with Lynn's 'lifer' Ellie the

If you find a grounded or injured bat and can't get hold of any appropriate carers / rescuers from Nottinghamshire Bat Group directly, then please contact the National BCT Bat Helpline on enquiries@bats.org.uk or 0845 1300 228



Previous Newsletters

- Issue 1, Autumn 2009**
<http://www.nottsbatgroup.org.uk/PDF/snn1-181109.pdf>
- Issue 2, Winter 2009 / 2010**
<http://www.nottsbatgroup.org.uk/PDF/snn2-150210.pdf>
- Issue 3, Summer 2010**
<http://www.nottsbatgroup.org.uk/PDF/snn3-160610.pdf>
- Issue 4, Winter 2011 / 12**
<http://www.nottsbatgroup.org.uk/PDF/nn4-26-02-12.pdf>
- Issue 5, Spring 2013**
<http://www.nottsbatgroup.org.uk/PDF/nn5-180313.pdf>
- Issue 6, Autumn 2013**
<http://www.nottsbatgroup.org.uk/PDF/nn6-141113.pdf>
- Issue 7, Winter 2013 / 2014**
<http://www.nottsbatgroup.org.uk/PDF/nn7-280214.pdf>



We have a growing number of followers of our Facebook page and regularly use this page to share information. We know many of you are quietly addicted to Facebook so please follow us too [here](#).

The NBG Committee:

- Chair** - Michael Walker
- Treasurer** - Paul Stone
- Membership** - Ruth Testa
- Minutes** - Shared Role
- Events** - Matt Cook
- Bat Care** - Lynn Victor and Rebecca Dicks
- Newsletters** - Matt Cook and Michael Walker
- Data & Info** - Michael Walker, Chris Turner and Phil Carter

If you missed it, you might still be able to catch *The Bat Man of Mexico* BBC2 documentary narrated by Sir David Attenborough online [here](#).



In our next edition we'll be providing a report of the successful AEWC advanced bat survey and training / research course held at Clumber Park in mid May.

common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*); the group were shown how to correctly handle and weigh a bat and opportunities were given to handle the bats within a demonstration net under close supervision from Margaret (see photo above left). The various items of kit required for good bat care were also demonstrated (see photo right).



Photo: Laura Hammerton

If you would like to get involved with bat care, please contact Rebecca Dicks, the NBG bat care co-ordinator on batcare@nottsbatgroup.org.uk for further information.

Thanks to Michael Walker, Lynn Victor, Margaret Thurgood, Rebecca Dicks and Chris Turner for giving up their time to run the workshops and to Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust for letting us use their facilities.

The 1986 Nottingham Serotine

We've recently learned that Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group had their first confirmed record of a serotine roost (*Eptesicus serotinus*) in the county, in Duffield. That got us thinking back to ours; our one and only confirmed record of this species in fact and sadly not in the best circumstances. For a bit of nostalgia we've reproduced an exact copy of the record below (minus a few confidential details) from Dr Sheila Wright at Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre ©

BAT SIGHTING REPORT FORM

Species of Bat Serotine

Date Found 18.11.86

Nature of Sighting
(Number of bats found, dead or alive, in what situation, etc)
..... Singing to excess roofing felt protruding from eaves of recently re-roofed Victorian house. Injured by knife as felt was being trimmed, and taken by householders to PDSA at Dunsthorpe

If bat can be examined:-

Sex ♀

Adult or Juvenile Adult

Forearm Length (mm) 54.9mm Wt - 29.4g (5 days after found)

Location
(Please give address if a building is involved, and householder's name if applicable)
..... Mr & Mrs
..... Dunsthorpe,
..... Nottingham

Grid Ref. if known
(2 letters, 6 figures)
.....

Action Taken
..... Collected from PDSA by Colin Green of Notts Bat Group after treatment. kept overnight in convalescence, but died and specimen lodged at Notts Natural History Museum at Wollaton Hall. Part of house where found examined by S. Wright and Karen Buckley and no evidence of a roost was found

Signed Sheila Wright

Please Return to:- Dr. Sheila Wright,
Nottingham Natural History Museum,
Wollaton Hall,
Nottingham.
NG8 2AE

Tel: Nottm. 281333 and 281130