

BATS (CHIROPTERA) - 2001

Colin R. Pope

A total of eleven confirmed species were recorded in 2001. The bat hospital, run by Graham and Donna Streets, continues to thrive. They dealt with 116 bats during the year, the highest to date, and many of the following records come from this source.

Whiskered/Brandt's Bat (Myotis mystacinus/brandtii)

A minimum of 38 was counted out from a long-established house roost in Pallance Road, Northwood on 17 June. An individual, presumably a male, roosted beneath a roof tile of a property by Greenlane Farm, Ashey Road during May and June (C & JP). The bat hospital received two females during the year, one from Seaview and one from Newport Racecourse. A male, from Sandown High Street, was tentatively identified as a possible Brandt's bat from its club-shaped penis (GS).

Natterer's Bat (M. nattereri)

A male was caught in a mist net set across a ride in Six Acre Copse, Briddlesford in July (I D-W). The bat hospital received two males and one female during the year. These were from Bouldnor, Ryde and Brading (GS).

Bechstein's Bat (M. bechsteinii)

The bat hospital received two males and one female during the year. These were from Newbridge, Freshwater and East Cowes (GS).

Daubenton's Bat (M. daubentonii)

The bat hospital received three females during the year, two from different sites in East Cowes and one from Ryde Canoe Lake (GS). Other records by bat detector.

Serotine (Eptesicus serotinus)

Many records. Six house roosts were counted this year. Counts were generally in the low teens with the highest counts again from Meadow Cottage, Adgestone where 66 were recorded on 22 June. The bat hospital received three males during the year; these were from Alverstone Garden Village, Carisbrooke and Ryde. They also received five females from a roost at Bowcombe (GS).

Noctule (Nyctalus noctula)

Recorded by bat detector from a number of sites. The bat hospital received one male, from Whitepit Lane, Newport.

Pipistrelle (Pipistrellus pipistrellus / P. pygmaeus)

Commonly recorded with records of both sibling species. They were not distinguished at roost sites where, this year for the first time, counts exceeding 100 were made at six roosts. The highest count ever to date was from a property at Hamstead Road, Cranmore, where 271 were counted out on the evening of 7 June.

Barbastelle (Barbastella barbastellus)

Two records for this rare species in one year is unprecedented. A male was caught in a mist net set across a ride in Six Acre Copse, Briddlesford in late July (I D-W). This is an exciting find suggesting there may be a roost in the woods. A male was found dead in B & Q car park in the middle of Newport by Dave Trevan in early August (CP).

COLIN POPE

Brown Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*)

Many records, including four males received by the bat hospital from Yafford, Newport, Mottistone and Shide.

Grey Long-eared Bat (*P. austriacus*)

Two males were found during demolition, hibernating in a derelict, roofless cottage in Carpenter's Lane, St Helen's in February (G & DS). A female was found dead on the floor of a garage at Yaverland Manor in May and subsequently a cluster of seven were found in the manor roof space (C & JP). This is a known roost site. The bat hospital also received three female individuals over the year. These were from Niton, Godshill and Brading.

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