

# BatMann

The newsletter of Manx Bat Group

Spring 2014



## Something not so creepy in Onchan...

In August I was invited to help with the National Summer Reading Challenge for children at Onchan Library. This year's book was *Creepy House*, with artwork by famous children's illustrator Chris Riddell, in which bats are a big feature.

Despite the title, bats are portrayed fairly well in the story and the librarians were keen for the Manx Bat Group to help the children learn more.

We had a fun quiz, with children (and adults) guessing whether facts about bats were true or false, or both, such as:

- bats are blind
- bats are the only mammals that can fly
- bats have feathers
- bats are as old as dinosaurs, and
- bats make nests and lay eggs.

Have you worked out the answers yet?

The library staff had set up a bat hunt, with pictures of different bats hidden around the library with a missing letter from the puzzle. Once the letters were unscrambled they spelled out 'sonar'.

Then it was back to the bat crafts that had been well under way when I arrived. You can see some of the creative bat puppets the children made in the photo. I was very happy to answer questions and hear about the children's encounters with bats.

Everyone took away one of our 'Bats of the Isle of Man' leaflets along with their certificate for completing the challenge, and I was sent a lovely bat thank you card along with a gift for the Bat Group.

**Margaret Hunter**



*Having fun learning about bats at Onchan Library*

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Contributions for the newsletter may be sent  
for consideration to the editor at:  
info@manxbatgroup.org

Members can also submit stories via our  
website. Just log in then choose 'Submit an  
article' from the user menu.

**[www.manxbatgroup.org](http://www.manxbatgroup.org)**

## Manx Bat Group contacts

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Sue Moon, John Wardle

**BatMann and website:** Margaret Hunter

## Get involved!

There are lots of opportunities for you to  
get involved in Bat Group activities, and  
at the same time learn more about bats  
and help promote their conservation:

### Bat surveys

We get asked to survey properties subject  
to planning proposals/building work for  
any potential issues that may affect bats.  
We usually visit twice and need lots of  
volunteers to cover all angles!

### Educational activities

We visit schools, youth and community  
groups and workplaces to give talks about  
bats, run awareness-raising activities or  
lead private bat walks.

### Your bat stories

Tell us your bat-related news, bat-spotting  
records or stories of encounters with bats  
and we may include them in *BatMann* or  
the website.

### Bat boxes

Help build bat boxes and check on those  
already placed around the island.

### Roost checks and surveys

Help us monitor bat activity and habitat  
during checks of known roost sites,  
looking for new roosts, eg bridge surveys,  
and by helping with structured surveys,  
such as car surveys and Bat Search.

### Bat care

Become a licensed bat worker so you can  
care for grounded and injured bats, or  
bats disturbed during building works. Full  
training is available for this role.

## Bat Helpline

If you find an injured or grounded bat  
or have a bat query, please call:

**366177**

## Bat's entertainment!



At the Liverpool v Queen's Park Rangers game at Anfield on Sunday 19th May 2013, fans at the match were entertained at half time by a bat.

The bat made its appearance shortly after the half-time whistle blew, and was flying about under the Main Stand for virtually the whole of the break.

The bat attracted the attention of many of the 44,792 fans at the game, with lots of finger-pointing and ducking going on whilst the creature swooped and dived across the crowd.

It appeared to be feeding along the length of the Main Stand but obviously decided it didn't want to get too close to the visiting QPR fans down at the Anfield Road end as every time it got close to them it would do a distinct U-turn and head back up the Kop end. Clearly a very loyal bat indeed!

Strangely, it disappeared into the stadium roof as quickly as it had appeared, just before the whistle was blown to recommence the game.

**Janice Skinner**

It turns out Janice's encounter is not unusual – this has become quite a regular occurrence at Anfield and it is thought the bats are attracted to the insects drawn by the floodlights.

Questions have now been raised about whether the presence of bats could affect plans for redevelopment of the stadium. However, it is not yet certain if bats are actually roosting in the stadium.

The *Daily Mirror* reported the story on 12th October and spoke to chairman of the Merseyside & West Lancashire Bat Group, Charlie Liggett, who said:

'It would have been a noctule bat. It attracted the attention of 44,000 people and there was lots of finger-pointing. It flew towards the QPR fans, but then turned and went to the Kop. Strangely, it went back into the roof when the game commenced.

'I also have records of smaller Pipistrelles being seen at Anfield.... There would be adequate space for them to hang around in the stands. There are plenty of insects for them to feed on and in the trees of Stanley Park.'

## The South Barrule Plantation box scheme

The initial spark for the project was a Tynwald Day enquiry from the owner of Laser Mayhem (a laser shooting leisure activity based in the plantation) regarding the encouragement of bats to the area to reduce numbers of midges that were plaguing their clientele. Whilst encouraging bats to roost in the area is unlikely to have any significant impact on midge numbers, it appeared a good reason to establish a box scheme to increase roosting opportunities for bats.

### Potential for bats in the area

South Barrule plantation (grid reference SC275767) has much potential to support significant numbers of several species of bat that are known to use boxes (such as pipistrelle *Pipistrellus sp.*, brown long-eared *Plecotus auritus* and Natterer's *Myotis nattereri* bats). The area has shelter from the prevailing southwest winds, a diversity of habitats known to support a high biomass of invertebrates (woodland, wet grassland, bog, heath and open water), sheltered flyways in the plantation rides and glades, and crucially a lack of natural tree roost niches. Commercial coniferous plantation trees



provide few roosting opportunities for bats, as they are usually harvested before they reach an age where damage and decay would provide suitable crevices and hollows. Think of a gnarled old oak tree in Sherwood forest in contrast to the straight and smooth trunks of our pine and spruce plantation trees.

This combination of available food but few roosting opportunities has led to many schemes in coniferous plantations, such as the well-published long-term study of brown long-eared bats in Thetford Forest, Norfolk. Such





studies provide significant data on the life history of our native species.

### **What have we done so far?**

Ten Kent design bat boxes ([bats.org.uk](http://bats.org.uk)) were made using untreated timber, screws and wood preservative kindly donated by the Government Forestry division. Louise Samson cut the timber into the necessary dimensions so that we had flat-pack boxes ready for construction. Bill and Adam Denard and Peter McEvoy then constructed the boxes.

The initial ten boxes (there are currently sufficient materials for another 20) have been placed approximately 4m high on trees with a southerly or easterly aspect to ensure they receive significant exposure to sunlight throughout the breeding season. The boxes are also on the edges of rides or glades that should provide close proximity to foraging areas

and commuting routes. The erecting of the boxes was kindly undertaken by George Gatsby and Malcolm O'Neil of the Forestry division.

There is potential for erecting many more boxes, but the initial ten are being viewed as an experiment, with scope for developing a wider network of boxes throughout the area and other plantations such as the West Baldwin valley.

### **What next?**

Whilst the boxes have only been in place since mid-November 2013, a late winter visit is planned to check for any pioneering bats that have taken up residence. This will be followed up with a late summer visit (once the young are weaned and less vulnerable) to check for further signs of use.

**Adam Denard & Louise Samson**



Photos © Adam Denard



# What happened to all the bat records?

**Nick Pinder**

I think I'm getting a bit of a reputation! At just about every Bat Group meeting I come out with the same refrain – 'Submit your records' – to the extent that I think people are now avoiding me...

Perhaps there's a feeling that if you see bats in one locality one night they'll be there the next, when you might have remembered to take a pen and paper out with you as well as your detector, so it's not important.

And I'm certain, since I'm as guilty of it as the next observer, that there's a feeling on Bat Group walks that someone else will see to completing the record form and submitting it.

I suspect there's also a feeling that only the records of bat roosts are really worthwhile and that sightings of individual bats feeding or transiting through an area are of little consequence.

It is so important, though, to have the records that it's better to have them in duplicate, or on the back of an envelope, than not at all.

All bat records are important, and we can do so much more with them than just send them to a planning inquiry if needed, as important as that might be.

This was brought home to me recently when I was asked to submit Isle of Man bat records for the National Mammal Atlas Project, for which the Mammal Society hopes to produce the first national atlas for mammals in over 20 years.

Records were needed in two time periods, 2000–2006 and 2007–2013, to give an indication of changes in distribution.

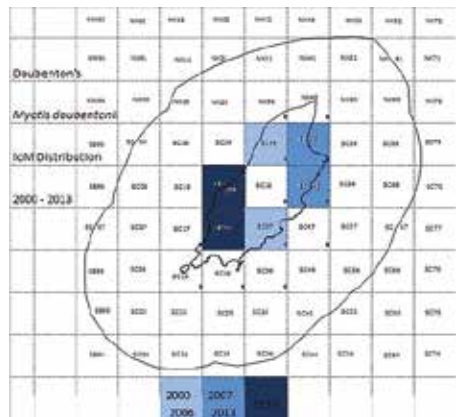
All well and good, I thought, all I have to do is go to my computer and extract the records and send them off. But they weren't there.

Well, some were, but there were definite gaps where I was aware there shouldn't be. There was, for example, only one record for Daubenton's since 2007, and yet I know I've watched them in the last year or two at the pond behind what used to be Laxey Engineering alongside a dozen or so other Bat Group members.

Yet no one submitted the record. Nor when we watched them at Glenfaba Bridge; and they're presumably still regular visitors to Tromode Dam.

One square filled in out of the 14 for the Island looks a bit thin, and a bit of a poor effort compared to the 4 we managed to fill in during the earlier time period.

Luckily, the weather was still warm and bats still active so, after a few emails and some memory-wracking, Group members managed to fill 3 more of the post-2007 squares, so the final result looks like this:

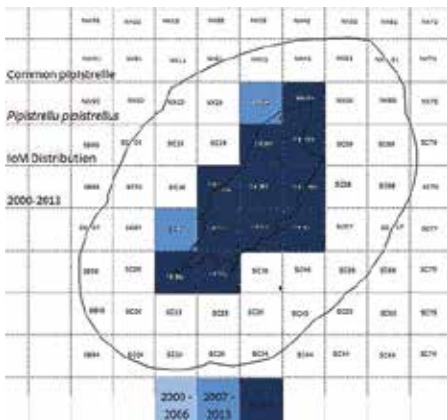


That map is quite interesting. It tells us that Daubenton's were recorded in grid squares SC 37 and SC 39 in the period 2000–2007 and in squares SC 48 and 49 in the period since 2007. They were recorded in both time periods in grid squares SC 27 and 28 and, to be honest, should have been recorded in both periods in the other squares as well.

I would have thought, too, that we could have filled in the Castletown square but perhaps not the others. As far as I know, they have never been reported from the Baldwin or Sulby reservoirs, and I don't see where they might be found on the northern plain.

Looking at the other maps (which I hope to put up on the members' pages of the website) tells us that the common pipistrelle is, not unexpectedly, the most widespread species on the Island. The only square it has not been reported from is SC 36, which contains Cass-ny-Howin and not a lot else.

But interestingly, the brown long-eared is close behind, being recorded in 12 of the 14 grid squares, followed by Leisler's occupying 10 squares.



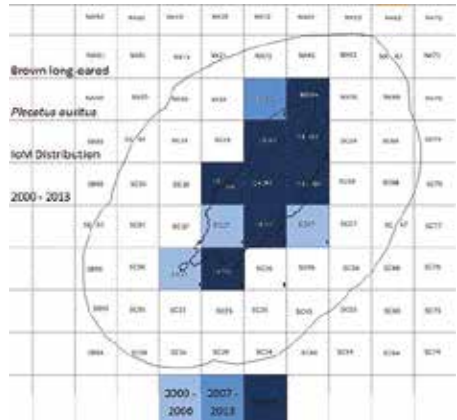
The Myotis bats are a bit more problematical, with Natterer's only found in 8 squares and whiskered in 5 (and only 2 of those recently).

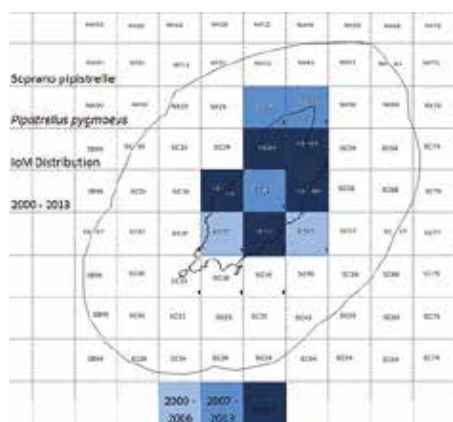
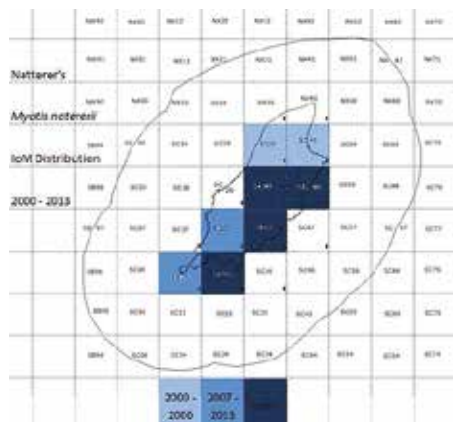
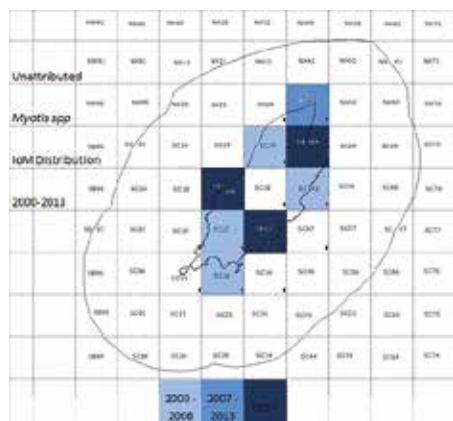
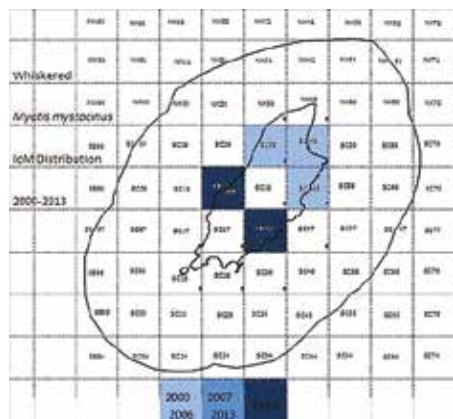
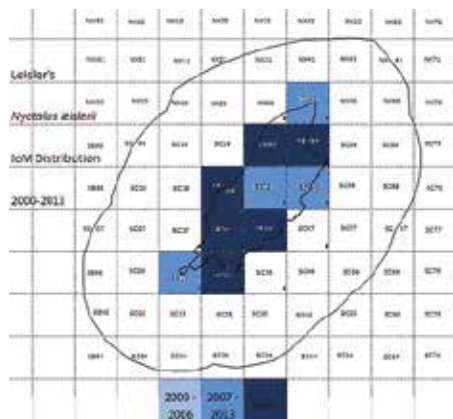
So there's more work to be done to get the complete picture of the basic distribution of our bat species. More records would make it interesting and useful; if we can get more records in and be able to map the distribution at a resolution of, say, 2 km squares we should then be able to judge any associations with particular habitats and perhaps pick up apparent gaps showing us where to look to find more bats.

For example, soprano pipistrelles are said to be more associated with water than common pipistrelles, and I have a suspicion that brown long-eared colonies are spaced about 3–5 km apart across the northern plain.

But more records are needed to confirm such suspicions – so keep them coming in! You can submit records using the online form\* on our website, or if you prefer pen and paper I can supply you with a free pad of record forms.

\*[www.manxbatgroup.org/index.php/manx-bats/records/submit-a-record](http://www.manxbatgroup.org/index.php/manx-bats/records/submit-a-record)







## Experiences of a BCT conference delegate



In September 2013 Bob Moon and I represented The Manx Bat Group at the Bat Conservation Trust Conference at Warwick University. We had a very enjoyable two days. A large proportion of the 500 or so BCT members were there, plus most of the 35 BCT staff.

The conference is a unique opportunity to meet other people who are eager to share their experiences, knowledge and expertise in bat ecology and conservation.

Each day there are talks from fellow bat workers, scientists, ecologists and consultants plus other interested parties such as civil engineers and crime prevention officers.

There is also the opportunity to attend two workshops on a wide variety of bat-related topics. It is your choice as to how involved you wish to be.

There are talks on specialist areas, open forums to share ideas and knowledge, and practical sessions on topics such as bat care, bat identification and the use of technical equipment. Also popular are classes in wildlife drawing and the bat ID photo quiz.

Aside from the talks and workshops there are a large number of stalls for a bit of retail therapy. It is possible to view the latest survey tools, recording devices, bat boxes, reference books and bat-related giftware. It is impossible to come away empty-handed!

On a more serious note we both learnt a lot at the conference. In the coming

year we shall be on the lookout for the presence of Nathusius' pipistrelle on the island, as it has been shown to have migrated eastwards from Europe to Ireland.

We are also awaiting with interest the release of 'EM Touch', a gadget which, attached to your iPhone/iPad, will give instant species identification of every bat that passes. No more being in the dark!

**Sue Moon**

### 2014 conference

More information about the national bat conference is available on the BCT website at:

[www.bats.org.uk/pages/national\\_bat\\_conference.html](http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/national_bat_conference.html)

The 2014 conference is on 5th to 7th September at Warwick University and booking is open now. The draft 2014 programme will be available soon. If you are a Manx Bat Group member and would like to attend to represent the group please let us know. A bursary towards conference fees and travel may be available.

### Past papers

Abstracts of talks from the 2009–2013 conferences are also available on the BCT website. The 2013 topics included:

- investigating potential bat crimes
- the potential for problems when bats meet breathable roof membranes
- white-nose syndrome
- bats, churches and communities
- automated acoustic monitoring
- analysis of wingbeat frequency
- distribution of rare woodland bats.

## Can bats swim? ... and other interesting questions

In October I was invited to Mr Nation's Year 1 class at Marown School to help them learn about bats. Most of the class had seen the big fruit bats in the Wildlife Park so were amazed at how small our native bats are when I passed round some specimens.

Everyone had fun trying on a hi-viz vest and turning on the bat detector. They tried to make noises as high as bats do, but no one managed! Here is what the children asked, and my answers:

### ***Why are bats black?***

Most are actually dark brown but look black because we see them at night. A few bats around the world have other fur colours. In Africa there is a bat with markings like a badger; the sac-winged bat has pale wavy stripes down its back; the fruit bats in the Wildlife Park have golden heads; and the ghost bat from Australia looks completely white. Bats don't need bright colours because they use noises and smells to communicate.

### ***Do bats have good eyesight?***

Yes, their eyesight is almost as good as ours, except they can see better in the dark than in the light. The saying 'as blind as a bat' is just wrong.

### ***How do bats fly?***

Bats have really long fingers with skin stretched between them, their body and tail to make wings.

### ***How do bats get into the air to fly?***

They usually drop downwards or jump off a high surface then swoop upwards.



*Looking at bat specimens*

### ***Why do bats fly?***

It's the best way to catch their food, eg insects in flight or fruit high up on trees. Bats are the only mammals that can fly.

### ***Why do bats have great hearing?***

So they can hear their food (insects), in order to echolocate to find food, and just to chat with each other!

### ***How do bats hang upside down?***

If we hang on with our fingers we need real effort to clench them, but bats do this the opposite way round – the tendons in their feet keep their claws clenched so they can hang relaxed, and they use effort to release them to fly off again.

### ***Why do bats hang upside down?***

Hanging by their feet means they can prepare to fly better by opening their wings before taking off and can also have a good look around first. If they hung by their thumbs they would have to let go first before spreading their wings to fly.

### ***What do bats eat?***

Most bats eat insects. All of the bats that live here naturally eat only insects or

invertebrates such as spiders – but the bats in the Wildlife Park eat fruit!

### ***Do any bats eat fish?***

Yes, but not here. Bats in other parts of the world eat fish, fruit and even frogs. Our bats all eat insects.

### ***How do bats catch their food?***

They listen for insects and use a special sense called echolocation. This means they make loud shouting noises which bounce off the things around them and they listen to the echo that comes back. They can find tiny insects and find their way around quickly in the dark. We can't usually hear the sounds bats make because they are at a very high frequency, too high for humans to hear.

### ***Do bats really suck blood?***

Three species of bats out of over 1000 across the world can suck blood and so

*Trying on a hi-viz vest*



they have been called vampire bats. They take blood from animals such as cows, not humans. They have grooves in their tongues which put a special type of saliva onto the hole to stop the blood clotting until the bat has finished drinking.

### ***Do vampire bats kill?***

No, but they can pass on diseases, so there is a chance the animal whose blood is taken could get ill or die.

### ***Do bats eat other bats?***

Yes, the greater noctule bat in the Mediterranean has been seen eating other bats, though it's rare.

### ***Can bats swim?***

Yes, but not by choice. They 'fly' in the water but need something to clasp onto to get out.

### ***Can bats glide?***

Yes, for a short time. Some bats glide over water when catching insects, for instance. Bats can also hover. Bats are the only mammals that can truly fly. Some animals such as flying squirrels just glide.

### ***Can bats climb?***

Yes, they have tiny pointed claws which allow them to cling onto even a slightly rough surface, but they can't climb up smooth slippery surfaces.

### ***Can bats walk?***

Yes, some better than others. Their knees point the other way round to ours.

With questions over, the class then got back to making bat puppets and doing bat puzzles on their iPads.

**Margaret Hunter**

## The state of the UK's bats

Last November I was kindly invited by the Manx Bat Group to speak about the National Bat Monitoring Programme and to show some of the bat trends produced from all the surveys. The NBMP team are collating survey results and working on the analysis of the 2013 data at the moment, so the following information relates to data up to 2012.

The NBMP was established in 1996, making it the longest-running, purpose-built, multi-species monitoring programme for mammals in the UK. The NBMP is a partnership between the Bat Conservation Trust, Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Defra and Natural Resources Wales (NRW), with additional funding from Natural England (NE), with our volunteers who conduct bat surveys across the country central to the programme. Historically, severe declines in bat populations have been reported, and bats have yet to fully recover from these losses.

NBMP data support and inform conservation action and key government biodiversity monitoring and reporting, including UK and country biodiversity strategies, the Habitats Directive and the UN EUROBATS agreement. Currently, statistically robust population trends are produced for 10 bat species, or groups, of the 17 that breed in the UK.

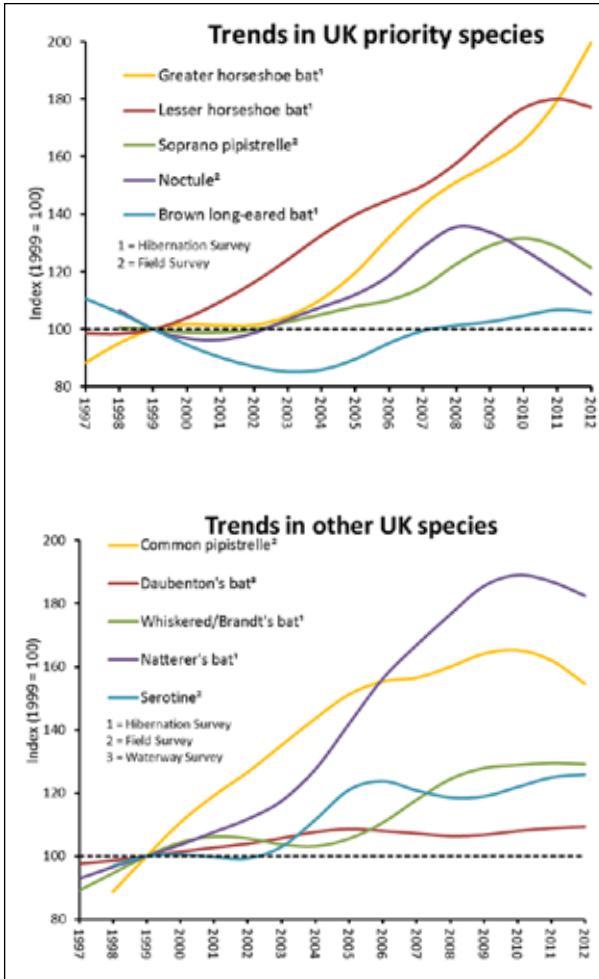
Bat trends are produced using data collected by volunteers from three main survey methods: summer Field and Waterway Surveys using bat detectors, Hibernation Surveys at winter roosts, and Roost Counts at summer maternity roosts. As a general rule, trends calculated from the Field and Waterway Surveys are

considered to be most robust, followed by the Hibernation Surveys and then the Roost Counts.

For the monitoring period so far (1997–2012) 6 UK species showed a statistically significant increase in at least one survey, 4 of which are found on the Isle of Man:

- **Common pipistrelle:** we conclude that the population is increasing from the results of the Field Survey for this species. Although a contrasting significant decline was reported from the Roost Count data, Field Survey data are considered to be more robust.
- **Daubenton's bat:** the target species for the Waterway Survey has shown a statistically significant increase in both Waterway and Hibernation Surveys.
- **Natterer's bat:** although it is unclear whether the increasing trend from the Hibernation Survey is a real reflection of population increase or other factors as the Roost Count data do not support the increase.
- **Whiskered/Brandt's bat:** however, the significant increase recorded for whiskered/Brandt's bat from hibernation data should be treated with caution as this trend comprises data from more than one species (the two species are treated as a group due to difficulty separating these species from their calls alone) and is therefore less easy to interpret.

For two of the other species found on the Isle of Man, soprano pipistrelle and brown long-eared bat, the data show no overall significant trends. There are insufficient data for the Leisler's bat (the 7th species found on the Isle of Man) to allow estimation of population trends.



The two graphs show the population trends for Conservation Priority Species and other species monitored. Although all the species monitored appear to be either stable or increasing, these positive results should be considered in the context of reported historical severe declines in bat populations, particularly in the second half of the twentieth century. More sustained population increases would be needed to indicate recovery from this extended period of decline.

equipment needed etc including:

- **Sunset and Sunrise:** no special knowledge or experience needed.
- **Roost Count:** join a group count or ask Nick to allocate a roost near you.
- **Waterway:** you will be allocated a stretch of river to monitor by BCT.

*If you carry out surveys yourself, please remember to submit all your records to our Recorder, Nick Pinder (as well as BCT if applicable).*

SEE: [nbmp.bats.org.uk/Surveys.aspx](http://nbmp.bats.org.uk/Surveys.aspx)

All the NBMP surveys rely on the dedication and hard work of our volunteers and their efforts play a vital role in making bat monitoring a success across the British Islands.

To find out more about how you can participate or to read more details about species trend information, see the NBMP pages on the BCT website at:

[www.bats.org.uk/pages/batmonitoring.html](http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/batmonitoring.html)

**Lisa Worledge**  
Partnerships Officer at BCT

### Get involved!

This year Manx Bat Group is encouraging members to get involved in various types of bat survey. You can join in with our group surveys (see the back page) or you can choose a type of survey that you can carry out yourself. The BCT website has full details of surveys you can undertake, experience and





## Member resources from BCT



[www.bats.org.uk/login.php](http://www.bats.org.uk/login.php)

Manx Bat Group members are entitled to access the Partner Groups section of the Bat Conservation Trust's website, where you will find lots of helpful advice and resources about bats, some of which are listed below. If you can't remember the login details just ask MBG.

- Guidance and suggestions for bat group development.
- Sample risk assessments.
- The latest issue of *Bat News* and the *Young Bat Worker* magazines.
- 'Introduction to bats' PowerPoint slides.
- Fun batty things to do.
- Leaflets such as *Encouraging Bats*, *Living with Bats*, *What Bat Is That?*, and individual species guides.
- Audio versions of some leaflets and publications.
- Teacher/youth leader resource pack.
- Images from the photo library, for use in publicity materials and resources.
- Bat sound library.
- Batty e-cards.
- Good practice guidelines on bat surveys and bat care.

## Bats and trees

There is a very interesting article on identifying bat roosts in trees in the summer edition of BCT's *Bat News*. If you don't receive a copy direct, use your Partner Group login to download a copy from the BCT website (see left).

Botanist Henry Andrews explains in the article how he learned to find spaces in nature that replicate the parts of buildings that bats use, and therefore to find many more bat roosts. It helps when you know what to look for!

## European bat numbers up 40%

From [bats.org.uk](http://bats.org.uk):

After declining for many years, bat numbers have increased more than 40 per cent (between 1993 and 2011), according to a new report by the European Environment Agency (EEA), which considers the state of bat populations in a handful of countries across Europe.

Surveyors counted 16 species of bats hibernating at 6000 sites in nine different countries. Overall these species appear to have increased. European bat populations have suffered serious declines in the past, particularly during the second half of the 20th century, largely due to agricultural intensification, changes in land use, intentional killing and destruction of roosts. Bat numbers have also fallen as their habitats have shrunk, fragmented and degraded. Additionally, they were poisoned by timber treatment toxic chemicals such as dieldrin, once used widely to treat roofs.

Read the full story and access the report here:

[www.bats.org.uk/news.php/234/bat\\_populations\\_recovering\\_according\\_to\\_largest\\_ever\\_european\\_study](http://www.bats.org.uk/news.php/234/bat_populations_recovering_according_to_largest_ever_european_study).

## Mammoth journey for tiny bat

A tiny *Nathusius' pipistrelle* that was ringed near Bristol in 2012 has turned up in the Netherlands. While this species is known to travel great distances within mainland Europe, this is the first time it has been recorded on both sides of the continent. The bat has previously been found on oil platforms but this is the first confirmed crossing of the North Sea and could be evidence that the bats migrate. SEE: [www.bbc.co.uk/nature/25759149](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/25759149)

Manx Bat group will be launching our own hunt for the *Nathusius' pipistrelle* with a new survey in September. The species has been recorded in Cumbria, Lancashire and Ireland but as yet there are no records for the Isle of Man. A confirmed record would raise our total of bat species found here! See the back page for contact details to help with the survey. Training/equipment will be provided.

## Formal caution issued under the Island's Wildlife Act

A formal police caution was recently issued to an island company engaged in demolition work after a report was received via the Group's Bat Helpline that bats had been removed from the site.

After investigation by the police and DEFA, evidence was found of disturbance to Schedule 1 nesting birds, and this formed the basis of the formal caution issued under the Wildlife Act. However, the company was also given advice about bats and their roosts and has willingly implemented new procedures for its workforce, which is great news.

Under the Act it is illegal to disturb or harm bats or their roosts, even if the bats are not present at the time.

## Manx Bat Group review

At the end of 2013 we sent out a review questionnaire to help us come up with a programme and structure best suited to members' interests. We didn't get a huge response but those comments we did receive were very useful.

Most people joined to learn more about bats and detectors and to take part in bat surveys. Caring for grounded and injured bats, talking to the public about bats and monitoring bat populations on the island were rated some of our more important activities. The weakest area was thought to be mobilising member action, and it was recognised that some people felt too inexperienced or lacking in knowledge to volunteer more. We followed up with an open meeting in January and had a good discussion about the way forward. The main points we agreed to work on were:

- need for basic skills training and knowledge about bats
- more regular meetings for members
- better communication about events, surveys, help needed etc
- more structured bat work such as annual monitoring of roosts.

So, we have made some progress! Our 2014 programme (see back page) seeks to address some of the above through:

- new monthly members' meetings
- regular email newsletters (as well as *BatMann* 2/3 times a year)
- up-to-date information and requests for help etc via email and our Facebook page: [facebook.com/manxbatgroup](https://facebook.com/manxbatgroup)
- summer programme focused on members rather than public bat walks – this year three types of survey.

We are having a social daytime walk for members in June and a public bat walk on International Bat Night on 30th August.

## 2014 programme summary

### Monthly Bat Group meetings

NEW for 2014 are our monthly members' meetings on the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** every month (except Jun to avoid TT), from 7.30pm in Knockaloe Schoolroom, Patrick.

**5th March:** Bat basics – ecology and biology.

**2nd April:** Bat care refresher/introduction.

**7th/8th May:** 7th: Using Your Ears; Thu 8th: Sound Analysis.

**11th June:** Gardening for bats (non-members welcome).

**2nd July:** Maternity roosts

**6th August:** Bats and the law.

**3rd September:** Bat care part 2.

**1st October:** Keeping bat records.

**5th November:** Members' barbecue and party.

**3rd December:** AGM plus talk/film and social.



### Walks

**Saturday 14th June:** Daytime social walk for members to Cooldarry, Spooyt Vane waterfall and Glen Mooar, with optional pub lunch at The Mitre in Kirk Michael. Lunch bookings asap please to [info@manxbatgroup.org](mailto:info@manxbatgroup.org) or tel/text 321041.

*MEET: 10.30am at the entrance to Glen Wyllin (park there or in Kirk Michael). Alternative shorter route: meet at Spooyt Vane car park at 11.45am. Wear sturdy walking boots/shoes as part of track is rough.*

**Saturday 30th August:** International Bat Night walk around the Middle River area and The Nunnery. OPEN TO NON-MEMBERS. Introductory talk and loan of bat detectors.

*MEET: at Pulrose Road car park (The Bowl) at 8.15pm.*

**13th & 15th May:** We will be leading two bat walks in Douglas for the Isle of Man Walking Festival. See [www.iomevents.com/package\\_page\\_202352.html](http://www.iomevents.com/package_page_202352.html) for details and booking. If any Bat Group members would like to help lead these walks please get in touch at [info@manxbatgroup.org](mailto:info@manxbatgroup.org).

### Bat surveys

If you are interested in getting involved in our surveys over the summer please contact [info@manxbatgroup.org](mailto:info@manxbatgroup.org) or phone the relevant coordinator below for details.

**June:** Bat roost counts (Nick Pinder 897499).

**July & August:** iBats – car-based surveys (Richard Fryer 861436).

**September:** The hunt for Nathusius' pipistrelle! (Bob Moon 612067).

*Please also see page 13 for details of other surveys you can complete yourself.*

### Bat box making workshop

**Saturday 8th March:** from 1.30pm at Eden Park Garden Centre, Braddan.