

## European Bat Night at Holyrood Park, Edinburgh

Holyrood Park's annual bat walk for European Bat Night continues to be a popular event in Edinburgh, with 60 people attending the 2006 event. Accompanied by Historic Scotland Rangers, the Bat Conservation Trust's Scottish Bat Officer, members of Lothian Bat Group and volunteers from the Bats and The Millennium Link project the group set off from the Education Centre along the tree line, carefully listening for pipistrelles with the bat detectors. As usual for this stretch a few bats appeared briefly as they commuted along the edge of the trees, with the occasional midge providing a snack for the bat and amusement for us at the 'wet raspberry' sound of the feeding buzzes! Our destination was St Margaret's Loch which also seemed to be that of the bats as the trees around the loch seemed to be providing feeding for a number of pipistrelles. After a short while in addition to the pips the Daubenton's bats appeared, zooming low over the water like tiny hovercraft. Listening carefully with the bat detectors and tuning up and down we were able to hear the difference in the wet slaps of the pips and the dry, machinegun like clicks of the Daubenton's; not to mention lots and lots of feeding buzzes. A fun evening for all!