



# Eurobat Chat



## A success story continues...

Dear readers of the Eurobat Chat,

It has been a while since you have received the last issue of our newsletter. This was mainly due to our limited resources, both financial and staff. But now we have managed to produce a new issue and shall aim to continue to do so once a year.

And there are so many news you will read about EUROBATS on the following pages, a success story that continues. So what to start with...?

One of the most visible changes you might have discovered already here above. It is our new logo, which we believe to be quite attractive and to well symbolise the dynamic development of the Agreement. We shall also report about the significant growth of EUROBATS, staff changes and the major decisions of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Meeting of

Parties, which among quite a number of developments and changes led to an important amendment and a new title of the Agreement.

Moreover you will read about the numerous activities and ongoing projects all over the Agreement area as well as important upcoming events such as the next European Bat Night and the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of Parties.

We have aimed to summarise the important developments of the past years and hope that you will enjoy this 10<sup>th</sup> issue of the Eurobat Chat. We look forward to your feedback as well as your own contributions for future issues.

Andreas Streit  
Executive Secretary of UNEP/EUROBATS

## The development of the Agreement since the Third Meeting of Parties

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Meeting of Parties to EUROBATS (MoP 3) convened at the generous invitation of the Government of the United Kingdom in Bristol from 24 to 26 July 2000. A number of major decisions to further strengthen and develop the Agreement were taken that led to the following changes:

### Administration

Since 1 January 2001 EUROBATS has been administered under the *United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)* in

the newly established CMS (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals) Agreements Unit together with the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and The Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS). Synergies, greater efficiency through economies of scale and close co-operation shall arise from co-locating the Agreement Secretariats and giving them a common administrative framework.

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### Amendment of the Agreement text

Another important Resolution adopted in Bristol dealt with an amendment of the Agreement. It was given an *appendix* to facilitate the addition of more bat species. Already now it has become evident that quite a number of additional species will be presented to MoP 4 for being listed, as many new bat species have been detected in recent years.

The amendment also introduces a better definition of the *scope of the Agreement* and more expressly invites non-European Range States to accede to the Agreement. The amendment entered into force already in August 2001 after the first five Parties had ratified it.

Since then, the Agreement title has changed to "*Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats*". Although being a bit technical, this new title makes it clearer that bio-geographical boundaries rather than political ones define the Agreement area. In the future this might become relevant in particular in the southern Mediterranean area.

### Action Plan and Working Groups

In further Resolutions the Parties refined the reporting system within the Agreement and established an Action Plan for the years 2000-2003 with the priorities for the implementation of the Bat Conservation and Management Plan (BCMP). Some of the Intersessional Working Groups already established in 1999 during the 4<sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee Meeting in Stockholm are still continuing their work to facilitate the implementation of the BCMP. The

main targets are *i.a.* data compilation on the most important underground habitats for bats, on migration routes, forest practices and the catching and marking of bats. After having collected the relevant information, the Working Groups shall draft appropriate guidelines and resolutions for the next Meeting of Parties.

### International Year of the Bat 2001

To commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Agreement, the Meeting of Parties declared the year 2001 to be the "International Year of the Bat". To read more about this, see page 4.

### Growth of the Agreement

Right to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Parties, EUROBATS could welcome Romania as the twentieth Party to the Agreement. Since then, another six countries joined the Agreement: Croatia acceded in September 2000, Moldova, Malta, Albania and Lithuania in 2001 and Georgia in 2002. Therefore the membership has now grown to 26 Parties. You can find a complete list of Parties on our website.

### Advisory Committee Meetings

The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC 6) took place at the generous invitation of the Government of Portugal in Sintra from 19 to 21 March 2001. Delegates from 31 countries participated in this meeting organised by the Instituto da Conservação da Natureza.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC 7) was generously hosted by the Government of Romania in



The Advisory Committee to EUROBATS



EUROBATs delegates at Dracula's Castle Bran, Romanian Carpathians

Bucharest from 27 to 29 May 2002 and established a new record in participation with 63 delegates from 32 countries.

On both Meetings, the agenda focussed on the implementation of the large work programme adopted at

the previous Session of the Meeting of Parties. In particular it was discussed how implementation procedures could become more efficient. During AC7, the Meeting also adopted the *new logo for the Agreement*, which carries forward the very successful and dynamic elements of the "International Year of the Bat" logo.

**The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee will be held on 12 – 14 May 2003 in Røros, Norway.**

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of Parties will take place on 22 – 24 September 2003 in Sofia, Bulgaria.**

## BatLife Europe - Towards a new partnership of NGOs all over Europe

At the IX<sup>th</sup> European Bat Research Symposium in Le Havre (see page 6) an exciting project was presented by Tony Hutson (United Kingdom), Peter Lina (The Netherlands) and Prof. Paul Racey (United Kingdom), which is to establish a pan-European umbrella NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) for bat conservation. This idea has been inspired by the tremendous success of BirdLife International, although the intended structure will be different.

There never has been a doubt about the important role that NGOs play in bat conservation and monitoring. Even governments highly depend on and benefit from the results of the most valuable work carried out by these NGOs. But in the past years it became more and more evident that the exchange of information and co-operation between the many national NGOs on an international level needs to be improved and certainly would bring a lot of benefit. In the presentation in Le Havre it was made very clear that BatLife Europe should be open for all NGOs involved in bat conservation that would like to participate and that from the very beginning they should be involved in its development.

The potential tasks and activities of BatLife Europe have a wide range indeed, here a few examples: To provide a recognised international framework for NGOs, to improve communication and knowledge sharing, to assist in capacity building for developing NGOs, to contribute to the development of best practice guidelines etc. It certainly could also facilitate fund-raising for transboundary projects and contribute to the scientific work programme within the EUROBATs Agreement.

The initiative for BatLife Europe was very much welcomed at the symposium in Le Havre and we look forward to its implementation. We shall keep you informed about the progress on our website and of course in the next issue of Eurobat Chat.

## Yearly European Bat Nights and "International Year of the Bat" in 2001

Every year at the last full weekend in August, the European Bat Night takes place in many European countries. The Parties to the Agreement as well as the Non-Party Range States are called upon to promote bat conservation and public awareness of the problems bats are facing. Bat walks and bat talks, excursions, exhibitions, posters, press releases and new information material are organised and produced every year since 1997. The number of participating countries grew to more than 30 in recent years.

The EUROBATS Secretariat produces and distributes posters to all bat groups or organisations that want to announce their Bat Night events.

Whilst in previous years only the flags and languages of the Parties to the Agreement were shown, since last year the layout of the Bat Night posters has changed: now the flags of *all* EUROBATS Range States are shown and "European Bat Night" is announced in all languages.

The year 2001 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS).

With this background the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Parties, which was held from 24 - 26 July 2000 in Bristol, UK, decided to declare the year 2001 "International Year of the Bat". The Parties to the Agreement as well as the Non-Party Range States were called upon to make additional efforts in 2001 to promote bat conservation and public awareness. But also interested States beyond Europe were invited to initiate or continue as appropriate collaborative conservation and public awareness campaigns to help improve the conservation status of all bat species worldwide.

On this occasion, *e.g.* the United Kingdom organised a whole Bat Week with a major launch in London, and even

small countries like Andorra offered a bat exhibition and excursions to the public. In Germany, two big events took place in Berlin and Bad Segeberg, in addition to many other smaller ones throughout the whole country. Also in many other countries more bat events than ever took place and new information material was published.

The EUROBATS Secretariat produced extra posters and stickers dedicated to the International Year of the Bat and distributed them all over Europe together with the Bat Night posters.

In all the participating countries the manifold Bat Night and Bat Year events would not have been possible without the immense enthusiasm of local bat workers and

national Bat Night co-ordinators, who spent much time preparing and realising the events.

THANK YOU all who put so much energy in promoting bats! The high numbers of people attending these events demonstrate the growing public interest in the fascinating world of bats.



***Don't hesitate to send short announcements for or reports on your Bat Night events to the EUROBATS Secretariat.***

We would be lucky to publish them on the EUROBATS homepage or even in the next Eurobat Chat!

You can find some reports from previous years on the EUROBATS website [www.eurobats.org](http://www.eurobats.org) under the link "European Bat Night".



European Bat Night event 2002 in Szeged, Hungary

© Péter Paulovics, Hungary

If you would like to get posters for announcing YOUR events to the next European Bat Night, please contact us.

***The 7<sup>th</sup> European Bat Night  
will take place on  
30 – 31 August 2003!***

## We are your Friends, Radio for Nature – Music for Bats

The EUROBATS Secretariat's latest project to raise public awareness for bat conservation is a music CD on which sounds of bats have been combined with songs. The project has been created together with the artist and producer Ernest Clinton from Liberia and actually has two elements:

The EUROBATS Secretariat makes the CD available at non-profit rate to Ministries, Nature Conservation Agencies, Natural History Museums etc. as an attractive item for public awareness raising. In particular the CD is also made for NGO's, who may resell it with some benefit for their valuable work.

At the same time the CD has been sent to all important European radio stations with further explanations on its background. Hopefully they will play the music from time to time and listeners might start asking questions when they hear that the songs are about bats and the need to protect them. The radio stations might also take this opportunity to report about bats in their countries and institutions that work for their conservation.

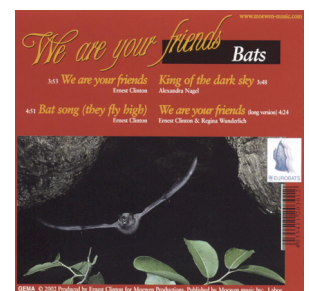
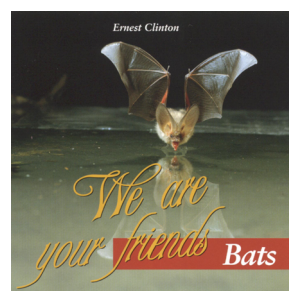
The Secretariat sells bigger numbers of the **CD "We are your friends"** at a non-profit rate of € 4,00 per CD. The CDs are packed in sets of 25 copies, which is the minimum order.

If you would like to buy only one or a few copies, you can contact the NABU-Naturshop, Calenberger Str. 24, 30169 Hannover, Germany, Tel. +49 511 123 83 13, Fax +49 511 123 83 14, Email: [info@nabu-natur-shop.de](mailto:info@nabu-natur-shop.de).

The CDs can be purchased for € 5,98 + shipping fees. Should NGOs or other institutions in more countries start selling the CD, we shall provide contact details on our website.



Ernest Clinton



## IX<sup>th</sup> European Bat Research Symposium in Le Havre, France, August 2002



From 26 to 30 August 2002 the IX<sup>th</sup> European Bat Research Symposium was held in Le Havre, France and saw a record participation of 210 experts from 34 countries. Even Mexico, Bangladesh, India, and Canada were represented, providing information about

research beyond Europe. The symposium was most excellently organised by the French Mammal Society (SFEPM) and generously hosted by the University of Le Havre.

A very impressive number of posters and other visual presentations stimulated the discussions on all aspects of bat research and conservation.

The oral presentations covered phylogeny and systematic, species and population biology as well as inventorying. Quite a number of further presentations were given about roosts, foraging habitats and echolocation. The symposium ended with an open meeting of the IUCN Chiroptera Specialist Group, in which the progress of EUROBATS and the project for "BatLife Europe" were presented (see following article).

### The 10<sup>th</sup> European Bat Research Symposium will take place on 20 - 27 August 2005 in Galway, Ireland

## German info pack on bat conservation

Several new materials to raise public awareness for bats have been developed within the scope of a trial and development project in the order of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. Available are (in German only):

- A series of 9 leaflets on bats, each one dedicated to another aspect of a bat's life and behaviour;
- A file that addresses schoolteachers dealing mainly with children of age 8 to 12 years. It includes much basic information on bats and many models and suggestions for the arrangements of lessons, games and projects (202 pages);
- A bat puzzle and a backpack with many useful items for bat walks with kids and adults;
- A catalogue for architects, craftsmen and house owners with many detailed drawings on how to create and maintain bat roosts in and on houses and information on the biology of bats and the German law related to these animals (252 pages). This catalogue is also available on CD-ROM.

If you would like to get more detailed information, please contact the EUROBATS Secretariat.

The texts of seven of these nine leaflets have been provided to a public awareness project in seven Eastern-European countries. To read more about that, see page 10.



## Study Points to Next CMS Steps on Bats

(published in CMS Bulletin no. 16, December 2002)

A study commissioned by the Secretariat on the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UNEP/CMS) has helped the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Council and the Seventh Meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties define CMS' next steps on bats. Tony Hutson, co-chair of the IUCN Chiroptera Specialist Group, and the study's author, presented his findings to the Scientific Council.

Hutson was asked to: (1) identify at least one biogeographical area for a future CMS Agreement on bats (both migratory and non-migratory); (2) identify migratory bat species that could qualify for listing in the CMS Appendices; and (3) identify experts and interested organisations that could support further work by CMS on possible bats Agreements.

He found only two international programmes on migratory bat conservation in the world. One is CMS' EUROBATS Agreement focusing on European migratory bat populations. The other is the Program for the Conservation of Migratory Bats of Mexico and the United States (*Programa para la Conservación de Murciélagos Migratorios de México y Estados Unidos de Norteamérica*).

Agreement development is one of CMS' key operational tools. The Secretariat has been interested in building on the success of EUROBATS in other parts of the world. Hutson selected four regions to investigate as being possible regions within which a CMS-initiated bat Agreement could contribute significantly to bat and biodiversity conservation. South America, southern Africa, South Asia and South-East Asia made the list. They are areas where there is existing knowledge of bat migration or at least significant indication of such migration.

Hutson concluded that all regions studied include species that are appropriate for an Agreement and where such an Agreement would bring benefit to bat species other than the target species and to other aspects of biodiversity. All regions appear to have the organisational capacity to carry forward an Agreement.

Species listings help to drive conservation action under CMS. Apart from the species included in EUROBATS, only one bat species is included in the CMS Appendices. This is *Tadarida brasiliensis* (family Molossidae), a widespread New World species included in Appendix I. This is despite the fact that of the world's approximately 1100 bat species, about 22 percent are considered threatened, and further 25 percent are considered near threatened. Hutson concluded that seven additional species could be potential candidates for listing in CMS Appendices. These are *Eidolon helvum* (Appendix II), *Pteropus vampyrus* (I), *Choeronycteris mexicana* (II), *Leptonycteris curasoae* (I), *Leptonycteris nivalis* (I), *Miniopterus schreibersii* (II), *Otomops martiensseni* (II). The status of *Tadarida brasiliensis* could be reviewed.

The study and Tony Hutson's presentation were well received by the Scientific Council. They resulted in the COP encouraging the Secretariat to continue its activities in this field, including exploring the potential to develop further CMS Agreements on bats. The Scientific Council was invited to have a substantial discussion on bats at its next meeting, while Parties were invited to consider developing and submitting proposals to list additional bat species in the CMS Appendices.

As a first step to making listing proposals an interested Contracting Party may wish to submit a proposed list to the CMS Secretariat. This could then be forwarded to the IUCN Chiroptera Specialist Group for review and possible assistance for further developing listing proposals.



# European bat fauna gets more diverse

by Dr. Peter Boye, Germany

When the Third Meeting of the Parties of EUROBATS took place on 24 - 26 July 2000 in Bristol, UK, the delegates adopted a list of the bat species occurring in the Agreement area (EUROBATS.MoP3.Record.Annex2). A new name on the list was *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*. Several years of scientific investigations and discussions had led to the separation of this species from the very similar *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, the widely distributed common pipistrelle. The new bat is sometimes also called *P. mediterraneus* or the 55 kHz phonic type of *P. pipistrellus*, but meanwhile the most commonly used name is *P. pygmaeus*.

During the last years careful research on European bats discovered more such cryptic species, which hid in other well-known species so far. Really a puzzle were some bats similar to *Myotis mystacinus*. BENDA & TSYTSULINA (2000) revised the group and concluded that in Europe it is formed by five species: *Myotis mystacinus*, *Myotis brandtii*, *Myotis aurascens* (distributed in Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, on the Balkan Peninsula and along the Adriatic coast up to northern Italy), *Myotis hajastanicus* (only in Armenia) and *Myotis nipalensis* (in Caucasus and Caspian regions). As a sixth member of the group *Myotis alcaethoe* was described from Greece (VON HELVERSEN et al. 2001). It occurs from the Balkans east to the Caucasus but also in France (RUEDI et al. 2002). According to BENDA & TSYTSULINA (2000) *Myotis ikonnikovi* is distributed only in the eastern Palearctic and does not belong to the European fauna.

The genus *Myotis* has another taxon, which is to be split up: the lesser mouse-eared bat. Morphological and genetic characters give reasons to separate two or even three species from one another. Quite different from the bats in Europe is *Myotis punicus* in Northern Africa, which also lives on Sardinia, Corsica and Malta (CASTELLA et al. 2000). Still under discussion is a separation on species level of the remaining lesser mouse-eared bats to *Myotis oxygnathus* in Europe and *Myotis blythii* having a range from the Caucasus to the east (RUEDI & MAYER 2001).

Three new species were added to the long-eared bats in Europe. First, SPITZENBERGER et al. (2001) gave species rank to *Plecotus kolombatovici* from the Adriatic Karst and the Balkans. Later this research team realized that they had overlooked another species, which they now wanted to call *Plecotus microdontus* (SPITZENBERGER et al. 2002). But at the same time KIEFER & VEITH (2002) had worked

on the issue and named the long-eared bat living in high mountain areas *Plecotus alpinus*. As they were a little faster in publishing this is now the valid name (KOCK 2002). Another new species is *Plecotus sardus*, which was discovered to live on Sardinia together with brown and grey long-eared bats (MUCEDDA et al. 2002).

Biodiversity in bats will be investigated continuously onwards and it is likely that there will be more discoveries affecting European species. Therefore, the above mentioned EUROBATS list of European bat species should be revised regularly to be an up-to-date reference for all non-taxonomists dealing with bat species conservation.



*Myotis mystacinus* (left) and *Myotis alcaethoe* (right)

© Dr. Peter Boye

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## Bat Conservation in Eastern Europe - Projects in Romania and Moldova

Whilst some European countries, particularly in Western Europe, are equipped with good personal, technical and informational resources to monitor bats, the relevant possibilities in many Eastern-European countries are often limited. There is a strong and still increasing need on information, training in bat survey techniques and the assistance in developing and implementing bat monitoring programmes on a national level.

Therefore the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT), United Kingdom, started a project in Romania and Moldova in 2002 to assist these countries to implement their obligations under the EUROBATS Agreement. The **Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), United Kingdom**, generously funds this project through a voluntary contribution to EUROBATS.

The overall aim is to set-up a framework for effective national bat conservation and monitoring programmes in consultation with local and international experts. The main objectives are to carry out a skills/needs analysis for bat conservation and monitoring, to enable the development of an agreed national action plan and to provide appropriate resources to implement this action plan, e.g. equipment, expert training and a status review to facilitate the start-up of a national bat monitoring programme.

On 16 - 20 September 2002, a workshop was conducted at the Danube Delta in Romania. Its design and contents were adjusted to the need of Romanian bat workers. The

main topics of the lectures and debates were the presentation of monitoring strategies and different survey methods, theoretical background of echolocation and flight behaviour, sound analysis with computer software, the development of a database, and national coordination. In the evenings, the participants were able to gain practise in the fieldwork using bat detectors.

In the end of the workshop, the participants agreed on standard datasheets for the monitoring of cave dwelling bats, on lists of key underground sites and key bat species for monitoring, the standard of a database on monitoring results, as well as on the structure and contents of training material for volunteers.

A comparable workshop for Moldavian bat workers is scheduled for 2003.

The German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety funded similar workshops in previous years. They were conducted in Bulgaria and Croatia in 1999, Ukraine, Georgia, Slovenia, Romania and Moldova in the year 2000, and in Lithuania, Slovakia and Yugoslavia in 2001.

You can find detailed reports on all these workshops on our website [www.eurobats.org](http://www.eurobats.org) under the link "News".

## Public awareness materials for Eastern and South-Eastern European countries

The Action Plan of the EUROBATS Agreement emphasises the necessity for public awareness measures (1) by giving priority to improving the perception of bats in the general public with particular emphasis on education and (2) by also targeting information campaigns to those professional groups who come across bats in the course of their work. These can be builders, roofers, members of the remedial timber treatment trade, planning and development as well as pest control, who have a particular responsibility for bat conservation.

In Eastern and South-Eastern European countries with economies in transition the information needs are particularly high due to the ongoing process of urban and industrial reconstruction and the still widespread misconceptions on bats. At the same time, the economic situation makes funding for the production of awareness material hardly available.

Therefore the **Ministry of the Flemish Community, Administration for Environment, Nature, Land and**

**Water Management (AMINAL), Nature Direction, Belgium**, generously spent a voluntary contribution for a project to raise public awareness in at least seven Eastern European countries: A series of seven leaflets on different issues regarding bat conservation is being produced so far in the local languages in Albania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. The **Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), Germany**, kindly provided the texts for the leaflets. These were produced during a trial and development project on the development of new strategies in the public relations and education field related to bats (see also page 6).

The translation of the texts, layout and printing of the leaflets are carried out in the respective countries. The project is under progress at the moment and the Secretariat is looking forward to being able to present the results in due course.

## Swedish-Bulgarian co-operative project for bat research

By Rumiana Pandurska, Bulgaria

A two-year co-operative Swedish-Bulgarian bat research project **Biodiversity of bats in managed landscapes: niche separation, genetic differences, and implications for nature conservation** was initiated in 2001. The involved organisations in the project are the Institute of Zoology (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), the Department of Conservation Biology and the Centre for Biodiversity in Uppsala. The fieldwork was conducted in Bulgaria and Sweden from June until August. Some of the main goals of the research are to investigate ecological differentiation between some sibling species of genus *Myotis* and to explain some evidences for competition and sympatric behaviour.

The field work in Bulgaria was undertaken in some karstic regions in Central Bulgaria as well as mountain territories in Rila Mountain. It was aimed to locate main roosting sites and foraging territories of *Myotis capaccinii* and

*M. mystacinus*. The foraging activity patterns of *M. daubentonii*, *M. brandtii* and *M. mystacinus* were observed in Uppland (South Sweden). Ultrasound bat detection and bat boxing methods for recording foraging bats were improved in Bulgaria. The main observations there were concentrated along open river banks near some big cave-dwelling colonies of *M. capaccinii* to observe foraging habitats of this species. There was no confirmed sympatric behaviour of *M. capaccinii* and *M. daubentonii*. High bat diversity was estimated in lowland areas in Bulgaria. Some new foraging habitats of *M. mystacinus* above the open river surface located in mixed pine and deciduous forests in Rila mountain were detected.

The method of line transects and the ultrasound detection was performed near some house – dwelling bat colonies in Uppland (South Sweden) aimed to locate foraging

paths and night activity pattern of different species. The main studied species were *M. mystacinus/brandtii* but also the foraging activity of *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, *Eptesicus nilsonii* as well as of *Vespertilio murinus*, *M. daubentonii* and *M. nattereri* was detected.

Future activities of the project will concentrate on the improving of the radio tracking method for searching of

new tree roosting colonies of *Myotis* sp. in the studied territories. Genetic studies and faecal pellet analysis will be used to describe the mechanisms of ecological differentiation between close related species of genus *Myotis*.

## The Bulgarian Bat Research and Protection Group (BRPG)

By Antoaneta Gueorguieva & Teodora Ivanova, Bulgaria

The Bulgarian Bat Research and Protection Group (BRPG) is a non-governmental organisation, registered in 1997. It is the only one of this kind in Bulgaria. The activities of the group started in 1994 when specialists from the National Museum of Natural History - Bulgarian Academy of Science, Sofia and few students in biology from the University of Sofia began a research on and inventory of bat caves in Bulgaria, which were known so far. Since its foundation, the BRPG is kindly hosted at the building of the National Museum of Natural History.

The main aim of BRPG is the investigation and conservation of bats and their habitats. The priorities are: to organise, carry out and participate in conservation research projects; to develop and implement conservation strategies and initiatives regarding the protection of bats and their habitats; to create and support Specific Information System - library, computer data base, etc. – concerning aspects of bat biology, ecology and conservation; to raise public awareness on the conservation problems of bats and the importance of their protection.

BRPG works in close relation with different governmental and non-governmental organization on the following topics:

- Mapping and study of the big bat colonies in underground roosts
- Monitoring of the known bat colonies
- Creating a database with information concerning important bat roosts/habitats
- Development and Implementation of Education Program

- Initiatives for adequate legislation and its implementation

Some of the projects recently carried out are:

**Central European *Miniopterus* Protection Program.** Cooperative Project on the conservation of the vulnerable species *Miniopterus schreibersii* in nine countries in Central and Eastern Europe, co-ordinated by EUROBATS.

**Assessment of the conservation status of the bats on the territory of the Eastern Rhodopes.** The project aims to identify the most important bat roosts and to protect them. It is implemented with the support of the Bulgarian-Swiss Biodiversity Conservation Program.

Since 1999 the members of BRPG have constantly collaborated with the scientists of the Institute of Animal Physiology at the University of Tübingen (Germany) and studied echolocation and behavioral ecology by radio-telemetry. Also model experiments in flying tents have been conducted concerning the five European *Rhinolophus* species.

The activities of BRPG are not only relied to research and direct conservation. A lot of attention is paid to the nature conservation education as well as other public awareness raising activities, like regular publications, participation in radio and TV talk shows, regular lectures and bat walks with detectors in the regions where the Group is working at the moment. The Group organises and coordinates also the European Bat Nights – usually

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

carried out last week of September in different places all over the country. The main event is an exhibition "About bats..." presenting more than 40 colorful photos of bats and their habitats, as well as books, posters and a lot of different materials telling the visitors the fascinating story of bat life.

The future plans of BRPG are focused on continuing bat research and conservation with more attention to those territories, which are not yet under special protection, on the establishment of a network of sites important for mammal protection (Natura 2000) according to the demands of the bats, and going on with national and international scientific projects as well as activities for

raising public awareness and nature conservation education.

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## Publications

**A.J. MITCHELL-JONES, G. AMORI, W. BOGDANOWICZ, B. KRYŠTUFEK, P. J. H. REIJNDERS, F. SPITZENBERGER, M. STUBBE, J. B. M. THISEN, V. VOHRALÍK, J. ZIMA (1999): The Atlas of European Mammals.**

Academic Press, ISBN 0-85661-130-1. Hardback, 484 pages, b/w illus, figs, tabs, maps. See [www.nhbs.com](http://www.nhbs.com) or [www.apcatalog.com](http://www.apcatalog.com), £ 39.95 / US\$ 59.95.

As the threats to wildlife of all kinds continue to increase, precise, timely information on species distribution becomes more and more important. Until now, there has been no current integrated reference to the distribution of mammals in Europe. **The Atlas of European Mammals** is the first project of the *Societas Europaea Mammalogia* (SEM), and is the result of more than 10 years of work by specialists throughout Europe. Co-ordinators have collected and validated distribution data for every European country using an agreed species list and a standard mapping system. This landmark volume presents maps of 194 species plotted on a 50 km UTM grid and based entirely on field observations. Over 93,000 records are mapped with separate symbols for data collected before or after 1970, and where appropriate, recent extinctions have been taken into account so that these maps represent the most up-to-date picture possible of the distribution of each species in Europe. Specialist authors have complemented the maps with a brief overview of each species, including details of distribution, habitat and population status. As well as the maps and species

accounts, the atlas also contains a complete species list for the whole European bibliographic region, with details of the inter-national legal and conservation status of each species and their common names in 33 European languages.

The atlas thus represents a unique and essential reference source for scientists, conservationists, policy makers, and the interested amateur alike.

**Microchiropteran Bats. Global Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan.**

**Compiled by Anthony M. Hutson, Simon P. Mickleburgh and Paul A. Racey. IUCN/SSC Chiroptera Specialist Group. IUCN 2001.**

258pp., tables, maps, b/w photos, £20.00, US\$30.00. Available through [www.iucn.org/bookstore](http://www.iucn.org/bookstore), ISBN: 2-8317-0595-9.

Bats make up a quarter of all mammals, and almost half of the species can be considered threatened or near threatened at a global level. This publication offers the results of the first comprehensive review to identify the conservation priorities for the 834 species of Microchiroptera. Rather than give an account of each of these species, this volume aims to be used as a basis for the development of more local or regional action plans, or actions for particular groups of bat species, by taxon or by habitat.

**KRAPP, F. (2001): Handbuch der Säugetiere Europas. Band 4/1: Fledertiere I.**

603 pp, 12 SW-pictures, 84 drawings, 47 tables, DEM 328.00 (Subskr. DEM 234.00) [in German].

This first part deals with the genera *Eptesicus*, *Myotis*, *Rhinolophus* and *Vespertilio*. Own chapter for each species: diagnosis, description, distribution, palaeontology, ecology, early development, behaviour, literature.

*Remark:* The second part (Band 4/2: Fledertiere II) will most probably be published in 2003 and deals with species of the genera *Nyctalus*, *Pipistrellus*, *Hypsugo*, *Plecotus*, *Barbastella*, *Miniopterus*, *Tadarida* and *Nycteris* [also in German].

**SCHOBER, WILFRIED: Die Hufeisennasen Europas - *Rhinolophidae* [in German].**

Die Neue Brehm-Bücherei Bd. 647, 1. Aufl. 1998, 163 S., 111 S/W-Abb., ISBN: 3-89432-867-3, DM 39.90 / öS 292.00 / sFr 39.90 / € 20.40

Five of about 70 species of the family of the horseshoe bats (*Rhinolophidae*) live in Europe. Literature about these species has grown immensely in the last 20 years, and there have been numerous publications especially on the biology and distribution of the Lesser and the Greater horseshoe bat.

This book shall be an introduction and an overview to the biology of the *Rhinolophidae*. It provides an easily understandable summary of this family of bats and shall be both a reference-book and a stimulation for people interested in nature in general and especially in bats. It also includes a determination key according to morphologic and acoustic criteria. Tables, maps, drawings and pictures complete the text.

**JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (JNCC): Habitat management for bats. A guide for land managers, land owners and their advisors.**

DIN A 4 Softback, 48 pages. About 20 £ / 65 DEM + p&p.

Conserving bats is a complex problem and recent research has uncovered new information about where bats feed and how best to maintain or enhance the habitats they prefer. This manual gives general guidance aimed at conservation and land management advisors on managing these habitats for bats. The manual is divided into two main parts: general advice on managing particular habitats to assist foraging bats, and detailed advice on habitat management to meet the needs of each of the 16 species of bats found in the UK. It also includes an

invaluable summary of law relating to the protection of bats and a digest of environmental incentive schemes and grant aid available that could directly or indirectly benefit bat habitat management.

**DEUTSCHER VERBAND FÜR LANDSCHAFTSPFLEGE (DVL) [ed.]: Bats in Forests - Informations and recommendations for foresters and forest managers.**

The German Association for Landscape Conservation (DVL) published the brochure "Bats in Forests - Information and recommendations for foresters and forest managers" (in German and English) as the fourth issue of its journal "Landschaft als Lebensraum".

In a three-year research project (R & D), initiated and funded by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, data on the ecology of bats in forests were collected nation-wide. More than 50 bat workers and researchers specifically addressed questions of roost and foraging behaviour as well as habitat requirements of bats in forests, thus complementing an intense literature search.

The goal of the project was to formulate recommendations for forest management aimed at the conservation of native bats.

The nicely designed brochure presents those ten bat species which are connected most intimately with forests. Additionally, the most important natural sites and foraging habitats in forests are described, including results of the latest research. Two paragraphs summarise the main findings concerning the improvement of the situation of roost sites on the one hand and that of foraging habitats in forests on the other hand. The importance of special types of forests such as riparian forests and mountain forests for bats is mentioned.

"What defines a forest-dwelling bat?" To address this question, all 20 bat species regularly occurring in Germany are listed in a table, ranked according to their roosting and foraging behaviour in forests. Specific recommendations for the conservation of bats in forest habitats can be found in a table.

The 20 page brochure (DIN A 4) is available in both German and English. It can be purchased from the German Association for Landscape Conservation for 5 DM plus expenses.

*Deutscher Verband für Landschaftspflege e.V. (DVL), Eyber Str. 2, 91522 Ansbach, Germany, Tel. +49-981-9504-247, Fax +49-981-9504-246, e-mail: info@lvpv.de*

## Some short information

### EUROBATS staff news

Since the last issue of the Eurobat Chat both staff members of the Secretariat have changed. In October 1998 Andreas Streit followed Eric Blencowe as Executive Secretary of EUROBATS. In April 2000 Christine Boye took up her post as Administrative Assistant, following Jens Lützen.

We wish both Eric and Jens much luck and success on their new posts and we know that despite different business they have remained true friends of bats.

So who are the new ones?

Andreas is specialised in international relations and law but meanwhile has also learnt a lot about bats.



Christine has graduated in nature conservation and landscape ecology. Beside her job she is active in a bat conservation and research NGO.

### Resolution on cave tourism

Summarized by Maryam Schumacher

Tourism, especially cave tourism, has become a serious threat to troglodytic (cave) animals like the bats. Conservation programmes have been developed by the United Nations and by associations of cave and karst researchers to ensure the continued protection of the environment and its fauna. Organised cave tours have been taking place for several years now. The organisers are commercial enterprises, as well as non-profit organisations. A common feature of these tours is a tendency towards having "fun & action", at the same time neglecting nature and cave preservation aspects. Tourism has therefore been identified as being a serious problem for bats.

The disturbance of roosts and the destruction of caves due to cave tourism, induced the organisation of **German speleologists together with Austrian and Swiss associations** to pass a **resolution** on 1 June 1998, calling the preservation of caves (in regard to the development of the animal world) a moral obligation. In the framework of the resolution, guidelines were developed to enhance organised cave tours to keep the disturbance of bats at a low level. The following are the demands of the organisations:

- To keep the participant number, frequency and time of the tours at an appropriate level to ensure the effectivity of cave protection
- To choose a responsible route and to avoid sensitive regions inside and outside the caves

- To restrict cave tours that have become a tourist attraction
- To ban competitions in caves as well as the use of caves as a "sports equipment"
- To ban biwaks in caves for tourist use
- To keep contact with local cave organisations
- To considerate local customs and traditions
- To inform all participants of the cave research and its goals
- To spark and raise the awareness of the participants for karsts and caves
- To observe the local laws and regulations
- To supply competent cave guides
- To gear publicity concerning caves towards the experience in nature and not towards adventure
- To ban aggressive advertisements
- To not use trekking for commercial interests
- To inform the participants about the dangers involved in visiting caves
- To contract insurances for participants and guides

For further information or questions about the Association of German cave and karst research (Verband der deutschen Höhlen- und Karstforscher) please contact the office under the following address:

*Geschäftsstelle der deutschen Höhlen- und Karstforscher,  
c/o Bärbel Vogel, Schöttlstr. 6 A, 83661 Lenggries-Fall,  
GERMANY*

## First record of the Pond bat in Finland

On 31 March 2002, Terhi Wermundsen and Yrjo Siivonen from the Bat Group Finland found one hibernating Pond bat (*Myotis dasycneme*) in an old cellar near the Russian border. Although this species was predicted to occur in South-Eastern Finland, this was the first observation of its kind.

*M. dasycneme* is the 10<sup>th</sup> bat species found in Finland. This observation as well of findings of *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* as the 11th bat species in Finland will be published in

SIIVONEN, Y. & T. WERMUNDSEN (2003): First records of *Myotis dasycneme* and *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* in Finland. *Vespertilio* 7 (in press).



The first Pond bat found hibernating in Finland

© Yrjo Siivonen

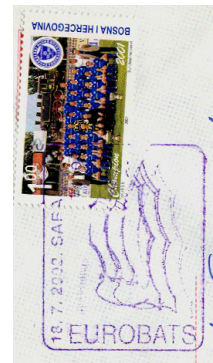
## Bats on postmarks and stamps

Within the last years and especially during the International Year of the Bat 2001 many national post services published stamps and postmarks dedicated to

bats in general ...



Stamp from Moldova



... while this one, again from BiH, copies the new one.



Postmark from Slovenia

In France, the post provides a special service to add private motives to the official ones — here again the new EUROBATS logo has been used as model.



... but also to EUROBATS in particular:

This postmark from Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) still shows the old EUROBATS logo...



Many thanks to all who sent us these!

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## LIFE Award for the Association for Transboundary Bat Protection (APTCS)

Together with 4 other winners, the APTCS has been decorated on 22 October 1999 during the Life Week in Brussels with the LIFE Award for their LIFE project "Transboundary programme on the conservation of bats living in the west of central Europe".

This decoration, which can be called the "Oscar" for one of the best European nature conservation projects, confirms that the Association is on the right way in choosing the international, transborder co-operation in the conservation of bats.

The award is an acknowledgment for the work and the engagement of the Association's members who build up a network of 156 protected bat roosts in Central Europe. For example, the roost sites of more than 70 % of the population of the endangered Greater horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*) could be saved in Wallonie (Belgium), Luxembourg and the contiguous regions of France and Germany.

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### How would you like to get the next issue of the Eurobat Chat?

We would like to know if you are lucky to receive the Eurobat Chat in a printed version? If yes, you only have to contact us if your address has changed or if you would like to receive more than one copy. You will get also the next issues automatically.

Another option would be to have a look at the Eurobat Chat or download it from our homepage. If you prefer this procedure, please send us a short note and tell us your E-mail address. Then you would always get a message via E-mail (instead of receiving a printed copy) as soon as our latest issue would be available on our website—so you wouldn't miss any new issues!

**Are you working on themes related to bats? Would you like to tell us about your projects? Do you organise special events dedicated to public awareness on bats?**

**Then please don't hesitate to send us short reports on your projects. Contributions (in English language) on your activities in bat conservation are always welcome!**



### Contact:

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