

About bat migration on Curonian Spit (RUS) and Curonian Lagoon, Ventés Ragas (LI) 2019



Nathusius' pipistelle (Foto: E. & R. Francke)



During the main migration period of bats in late summer 2019, here mainly the migration of Nathusius' pipistrelles (*Pipistrellus nathusii*) six people from the Arbeitskreis Fledermäuse Sachsen-Anhalt e. V. visited the "Biological Field Station Fringilla" on the Curonian Spit and the "Ornithological Station Ventés Ragas" at the Curonian Lagoon to observe the bat migration and to catch and mark bats together with Russian and Lithuanian friends.

In the field stations Fringilla and Venté Ragas there are large "Helgoland trap traps" in which birds and insects (dragonflies and butterflies) in particular, but also individual bats get caught and marked. In the surroundings of the Helgoland traps, 8 m high mist nets were used to catch migrating bats which were then marked and released.

While there is a lack of insects in Germany, bats can feed well in the northeast of Europe. On the information board of Rybachy (picture right) numerous mosquitoes are visible, which represent the main component of the bats' food.

In four catching nights for an average of five hours, 672 bats were caught at the Fringilla station and in Kaliningrad. Of these, 528 were Nathusius' pipistrelles, 48 noctules (*Nyctalus noctula*), 30 parti-coloured bats (*Vespertilio murinus*), 39 Daubenton's bats (*Myotis daubentonii*), 5 pond bats (*Myotis dasycneme*), 6 barbastelle bats (*Barbastella barbastellus*), 4 brown long-eared bats (*Plecotus auritus*), 4 Brandt's bats (*Myotis brandtii*), 2 soprano pipistrelles (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) and 1 Natterer's bat (*Myotis nattereri*). The catches were not easy, because of strong wind blowing.



At the "Ornithological Station Ventés Ragas" 124 Nathusius' pipistrelles, 3 noctules, 2 parti-coloured bats and 1 pond



bat were sometimes captured in the slipstream of a tree row during stormy west wind.

We would like to thank our hosts Vytautas Jusys (LI) and Mikhail Markovets (RUS), left photo from left to right, for the opportunity to catch bats together and use their hostels.



It was unforgettable days and nights working together on the bat migration project.

The date for the next excursion to the Curonian Spit is fixed. A nine-people catching team with three cars is planned.

We would like to continue to support our Russian friends in marking bats. For this it is necessary to provide bat rings, financed by donations.

We would be pleased about your support!

It is now up to us, in Germany and other countries, to recapture the migrating and marked bat species from the Curonian Lagoon and Curonian Spit!

Please report your recaptures via the marking centres in Germany (Bonn or Dresden) or under: <https://www.fledermauszug-deutschland.de/index.php/datenerhebung/wiederfund-melden/>

Good luck and thank you!

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title: Curonian Spit