



## 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EUROBATS Advisory Committee Update on National Implementation Report - NORWAY

As the Norwegian Management Authority to EUROBATS we refer to your letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> February 2002, and have the pleasure to inform you on main issues relating to the national implementation since our last national report to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Parties in July 2000.

### *A. General information*

#### *National Advisory Committee Member*

In connection with the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee in Portugal in 2001 we appointed the Norwegian Zoological Society (NZF) as our permanent representative to the AC. The NZF is a non-governmental organisation with nationwide membership, and with local contacts and bat workers in most of Norway's 19 counties. At the moment the Directorate regards the NZF as the foremost organisation working on bats in Norway and have appointed the organisation as our main partner of collaboration. In consultation with NZF Mr. Per Ole Syvertsen, Curator of Natural History at Rana Museum, P.O. Box 173, NO-8601 MO I RANA was appointed as our Advisory Committee delegate to the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AC. He will also attend the 7<sup>th</sup> AC meeting.

### *B. Status of bats in Norway*

Since our last national report no major publication have been issued regarding the status of bats in Norway. However, much new information have been collected and incorporated into a project database on mammal distributions maintained by the NZF (cf. B 4 below). The Directorate have financed a number of projects relating to such general mapping of bat occurrences in Norway, *inter alia* these are:

1. Mapping of forest-dwelling species in southern and western parts of the country. This project runs over three seasons and is planned to be concluded in 2002.
2. Mapping of underground hibernation localities potentially suitable for bats (mines, caves, etc.). Project concluded in 2001.
3. Annual monitoring of selected underground hibernation localities (eight abandoned mines in SE Norway) is to be continued (financed for five years).
4. General mapping of distribution of all mammal species in Norway with the aim of producing a national mammal atlas (tentative publication set to 2004).
5. A reporting system and follow up on bat observations (primarily roosts) reported by the public.
6. Training seminar on bat surveying, with emphasis on bats in forests and finding of roosts (five days in June/July 2001, with invited expert from The Netherlands).

Published articles and reports with new information on status and distribution of bats in Norway:

1. WINGAN, R. 2000. Langøreflaggermus i Snillfjord. *Trøndersk Natur* 27 (1): 23. (In Norwegian; reports on a new northerly locality for *Plecotus auritus* at 63°31' N).
2. ANON. 2000. Langøreflaggermus i Mære, Steinkjer. *Trøndersk Natur* 27 (1): 23. (In Norwegian; brief report on the northernmost known locality for *Plecotus auritus* in Norway at 63°56' N).
3. SYVERTSEN, P. O. 2001. The world's northermost bats. Topic 2.1. in: *Eptesicus* 1, January 2001. (electronic newsletter on boreal bats released by the Estonian Bat Group).

4. ISAKSEN, K. 2001. *Kartlegging av flaggermus i Nord-Hedmark. Kunnskapsstatus 2000. Strix* Miljøutredning, rapport 2/2001. February 2001, 27 pp. (In Norwegian; results of bat surveys in northern parts of Hedmark county, SE Norway in 2000).
5. ODDANE, B. 2001. Nordflaggermus *Eptesicus nilsonii* på insektjakt langs Jærstrendene. *Fauna* 54(4): 121-123. (In Norwegian; The northern bat *Eptesicus nilsonii* hunting insectss along the beaches in Southern Norway).
6. FRAFJORD, K. 2001. Flaggermus nord for polarsirkelen. *Fauna* 54 (4): 124-131. (In Norwegian with English summary; Distribution of the northern bat *Eptesicus nilsonii* above the Arctic Circle in Norway).

### **C. Measures to implement Article III of the Agreement**

Measures in relation to public awareness have been much focused in the period, *inter alia* these are:

1. In co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the NZF a new brochure on bats and forestry has been prepared for publication in 2002.
2. The web site of the Norwegian Zoological Society has been developed to focus on bats as one of its main topics (cf. [www.zoologi.no/flmus](http://www.zoologi.no/flmus)). A second organisation, the Norwegian Information Centre for Bats (NIFF) also has a web site (cf. [www.flaggermus.no](http://www.flaggermus.no)).
3. A discussion forum for bat issues on Internet (Tragus) was established by the NZF in September 2001, drawing bat workers around the country closer together and offering a forum for exchange of ideas and news. By April 2002 Tragus has approximately 45 subscribers.
4. In 2001 the bat night was a nationwide arrangement, with events in ca. 20 different places.
5. A national rescue center for injured bats or bats in distress was established by NZF after permits had been issued by the Directorate and the National Veterinary Service.
6. Information on the rescue center and on guidelines for handling of injured bats have been distributed by the Directorate to all public veterinarians and County Governors.
7. A telephone for bat related questions and emergencies was established by NZF in 2001. During the first year ca. 100 inquiries were received.
8. A number of newspaper articles, radio and television interviews relating to bat issues have appeared, and a 30 minutes programme was shown on national TV in March 2002, relating to *ia* the bat rescue center.
9. It should also be mentioned that a number of bat detectors are now at hand in Norway, purchased by individuals as well as organisations. These are used during public events (cf. C 4 above), and some may be made available for interested individuals when not applied for surveys. Hence, the technical capacity for bat surveys in Norway has been greatly enhanced in recent years.

### **D. Operation of the Agreement**

1. The Norwegian ratification of the changes of the text to the Agreement as concluded during MoP 3 (Resolution 3.7) are still pending.
2. Priorities for bat conservation for the period 2000-2003 (cf. MoP 3, Resolution 3.8, Annex 1):
  - On the programme for population surveys and monitoring methodologies: Norway has not initiated specific programmes due to the lack of competent research directed towards the two relevant target species (cf. *Eptesicus nilssonii* and *Nyctalus noctula*).
  - On the timing and distribution patterns for bat migration: Two of the target species, *Pipistrellus nathusii* and *Nyctalus noctula* occur in Norway. Only the latter, however, is hitherto known to be a regular member of the fauna. Roosts are unknown for either species. Specific work on migration of bats has so far not been undertaken, but a proposal for general surveys is under evaluation.
  - A provisional list of important Norwegian underground habitats have been supplied.
  - Plans have been discussed for further initiatives relating to public awareness, *ia* specific information directed towards builders and house owners with bats in their homes etc.
  - A survey on timber treatment substances have been concluded.
3. Regarding guidelines for the issue of permits for bat ringing or other marking activities (cf. MoP 3, Resolution 3.4): Norway has reported on the national situation.