

# BATS & The Millennium Link

www.batml.org.uk

EDITOR:


NEIL MIDDLETON

25 KILLIN DRIVE, POLMONT, FK2 0QQ

Tel - 01324 710007 Email - middleneil@msn.com

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**It's Spring Again...** and we are ready for season number six of the BaTML project. This year sees a number of key changes to what we are doing. Most importantly we have been heavily involved with taking stock and deciding the best direction in which to move.

With regards to our future practical work we have designed a three year programme of studies centred around six key areas (Forth & Clyde Canal - 2, Union Canal - 4). Our ongoing activities will focus on these areas as we try to find those elusive roosts, build Habitat Use Profiles, study diet and audit the monitoring carried out during the first five years. Add to this our course programme and you can see that another busy season awaits, with lots for people to get involved with.

## BaTML Courses 2006

Preparations are going well for our 2006 course programme (see below). Our venue, The Lowport Outdoor Education Centre (Linlithgow), gives easy access for travelling delegates, with all facilities on site and a number of study locations just a short walk away. If you are still thinking about 'booking up' the good news is that there are still some places left. To provisionally book your place telephone Neil Middleton on 01324 710007 or send us an email at: [courses@batml.org.uk](mailto:courses@batml.org.uk)

2006 Dates	Course Title	Cost
31.07 to 01.08	Basically Bats	£95.00
01.08 to 03.08	Field Surveying For Bats	£210.00
03.08 to 04.08	Insects & Their Bat Predators	£105.00

## In Brief....

- **BaTML Website** now has a **Photo Gallery** section. Go to our website & check out if there is anyone there you recognise.
- **215 Surveys** completed during 2001/2005 involving **115 volunteers**.
- **7 New Bat Roosts** found. 2006 to produce a major push in finding more roosts.
- **BaTML presents to SWT** Presentations delivered to Edinburgh & Falkirk groups. 70 SWT members learn about bats.
- **2006 Course Programme** 3 events to be delivered in Summer 2006. Still spaces available. Book now to avoid disappointment.
- **Newsletter Circulation** 314 people/organisations on our distribution list.
- **Newsletter No 12** due out in Oct 2007. If you would like us to include anything just ask.



## Basically Bats Course 31.7 to 1.8.06

Don't be fooled by the title of the latest course to be added to our training schedule. One thing is for sure, as anyone that knows us will tell you, basics is something we don't do. Yes we will start on the basis that our delegates don't know that much about bats, but by the end of the event you will go away with a pretty solid understanding of bat biology, identification, behaviour and conservation challenges. On the Monday evening, after a good theoretical session on echolocation, we will take you to see bats in the flesh and show you how to differentiate your pipistrelles and find Daubenton's using heterodyne bat detectors. All of this, plus accommodation, meals, course material and good company, for only £95.00.

We still have places left, so if you want to try something different, learn lots and witness these amazing mammals (that's the bats we are talking about - not the trainers) email us now at: [courses@batml.org.uk](mailto:courses@batml.org.uk)



## Foraging Surveys

Last year Habitat Use Profiling delivered good results relating to the narrowing down of roost locations. This information has contributed greatly to the selection of the six study areas where we are now going to focus our future activities upon.

In 2006 our volunteers will be contributing towards a new survey that has been developed to look at which sections of these canals are more attractive to foraging Daubenton's. The data collected from this study will also *feed* into the other studies being carried out in the same locations.

## BaTML Publications Online (Soon, Very Soon!)

Some challenges occurred as we tried to tackle the best way in which to put our results into the public domain. The initial idea of a written report issued to only a small number didn't feel right, in that with so many people having been involved (100+) it was unfair not to make our material more widely accessible. In addition, a single hard copy report would have been restricted in size, leaving out much of the detail that some may have found of interest. After much thought we decided that an ongoing, living journal was a far better approach. It allows us to add to it as/when new information becomes ready and it also means that you only need to download the articles you are interested in. BaTML Publications will be available online, via our website, this month (April 2006). All of our volunteers/funders are being offered free access; contact us for details. Beyond this 'free access' group, others may subscribe after paying a one off fee (currently; Individuals - £25; Organisations/Institutions - £100).

BATS & The Millennium Link is supported by the following organisations:

SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE

British Waterways

FALKIRK ENVIRONMENT TRUST

Central Scotland Bat Group

Clyde Bat Group

BTCV

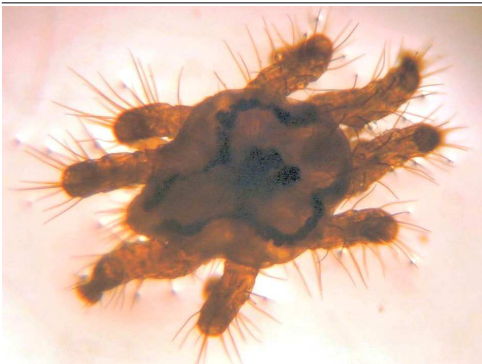
Lothians Bat Group

The Bat Conservation Trust

## Profile: Daubenton's Bat

The bulk of our survey activity relates to Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*). Here are some interesting facts relating to this species (pictured on right).

They can be found throughout mainland UK with the exception of the Northern Isles and many of the Western Isles. Regarded as a medium sized UK bat, with a body mass of between 6.5-15g, they have a wingspan of 240-275mm and a forearm length of between 33 and 42mm. It has been estimated that the UK population of this species is circa 150,000 (40,000 in Scotland). Typically the dorsal fur is brown and the ventral fur pale buff in colour. They have relatively short ears and a blunt tragus, which is less than half the length of the ear. These bats have a strong affinity with calmer stretches of water, above which they feed by taking insects close to or from the surface. As such, our canals are an ideal habitat.



### Mitey Impressive!

The picture above is of a parasitic mite (*Spinturnix* sp.) magnified 40Xs. It was collected from the wing membrane of a Daubenton's bat during one of our harp trapping sessions last autumn.

## Natalie Taylor Joins BaTML Team

We are pleased to announce that Natalie Taylor (Lothians Bat Group) has joined the BaTML Project Team. Natalie is an experienced batworker and brings with her, numerous strengths (and hats!) that will compliment our activities during the next few years. Over this season many of you will get to know her as she adds her own personality and ideas into the project.

### Items For Sale

We have carried out a review and there are a few items we can now sell on (at a very good price!) in order to give our funds a small boost. The items are shown below. If you are interested please contact Neil Middleton (email: [middleneil@msn.com](mailto:middleneil@msn.com)) to arrange purchase or discuss further.

[Microbat Detector \(Stag Electronics\) - £25.00](#)

[Night Vision Scope Exp' 600 \(Bushnell\) - £50.00](#)

### NBN Gateway

The National Biodiversity Network Gateway is designed to help organisations share their wildlife data. This data is usually presented as maps and site reports.

From early this summer many of the BaTML records will be available to view on the NBN Gateway website [www.searchnbn.net](http://www.searchnbn.net)

The records we have made available come from our standard bat detector surveys across the 22 BaTML monitoring sites for the period April 2001 to October 2005. To find out more about the National Biodiversity Network visit their site at: [www.nbn.org.uk](http://www.nbn.org.uk)

## BaTML Photo Gallery

Our website now has its own Photo Gallery. So far we have inserted many of the photos appearing on our page headers, along with pictures relating to specific events. In time we will add new photographs and folders as appropriate. If you took the photograph we have tried to ensure that it has been correctly credited. We were also conscious that we would have no credibility including other peoples photos without at least having some dodgy photos of the Project Team as well! One of our team did, after some reflection, try to withdraw their contribution, albeit in a move that failed badly!

## BRISC Wildlife Counts Project

There is a lot more to see and do in central Scotland than just bats. The BRISC Wildlife Counts Project starts this spring under the leadership and guidance of Wildlife Counts Project Officer, Dr. Claire McSorley. During the period spring 2006 to autumn 2007 BRISC is organising numerous training events to increase people's understanding of local wildlife in the Falkirk, North Lanarkshire and Stirlingshire areas. These events are free, open to anyone to participate in and cover a wide range of subjects including; wild flowers, trees, butterflies, birds and yes, OK, bats are there as well. Claire has been working hard pulling the programme together and is now taking bookings for this seasons events.

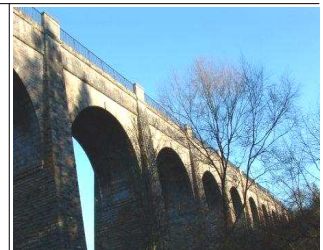
To find out more visit the following web link: [www.brisc.org.uk/wcounts.php](http://www.brisc.org.uk/wcounts.php) or contact Claire (details below).



Email: [brisc-wcp@bctv.org.uk](mailto:brisc-wcp@bctv.org.uk)

Tel: 01786 474 061

Address: BRISC, c/o BTCV, Balallan House,  
24 Allan Park, Stirling, FK8 2QG



The Avon Aqueduct, Union Canal

### DATA PROTECTION ACT

Please note. If you are the direct recipient of this newsletter, then your name, address and other contact details are being retained on our database for use solely in connection with **BaTML**.

If you do not wish to be kept informed about our activities, please advise us accordingly and we will arrange for your details to be removed.

In addition if you have received this from us directly by email you can unsubscribe electronically via our website by accessing our 'Contact Us' page and typing the words "unsubscribe me" in the Other Comments field.

### BaTML PROJECT TEAM 2006

Neil Middleton (Chair)  
David Dodds  
Chris Gould (Treasurer)  
Craig Macadam  
Kirsty Morrison (Secretary)  
Natalie Taylor

**Email Contact:-**  
[projectteam@batml.org.uk](mailto:projectteam@batml.org.uk)

## BIG Thanks To Shoana Mackenzie

The BaTML project only manages to operate through the valuable contributions of volunteer time and effort. The role of Secretary and Project Administrator has been carried out extremely effectively by Shoana Mackenzie since 2004 and it has been brilliant to have her skills and drive within our Project Team. Unfortunately however, due to personal commitments, Shoana has had to step down from the position. We would all like to acknowledge the excellent contributions she has made to the group. All of her hard work over the past couple of years means that she leaves us in a far better, more organised, state than she found us! Thanks lots Shoana and best wishes for the future from all of us at BaTML.