

BATS & "The Millennium Link" NEWSLETTER

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Time To Recharge The "Bat"teries

.....Yes it is definitely time to rest, and like bats a long sleep over the winter is just what is needed – after 6 months of surveying we really are thankful that we are studying a mammal that hibernates.

As we begin to analyse our results there are many things to reflect upon. This year has seen us complete 30 surveys. With this we have found 2 new roosts close to the Union Canal and also, for the first time, recorded the presence of both Natterer's and Brown Long-eared bats.

BCT Scottish Bat Day – November 2003

This years Scottish Bat Day takes place in Battleby on the 29th November and is open to anyone interested in bats. The cost is £15.00 per person (inc lunch/refreshments). To book your place contact Anne Youngman prior to 29th October (Tel 01786 447144 or email ayoungman@bats.org.uk).

Duke Of Edinburgh's Award



Dawn Gahagan, Thea Esk and Emily Raemaekers (all pictured) assisted with 12 nights survey work. As a result of this Thea and Emily completed their Silver Award.

We believe that this is the first time that bats have benefited from the Duke Of Edinburgh's Award.

Newsletter Archive On The Web

Clyde Bat Group have very kindly agreed to give space on their web site for a **BaTML** newsletter archive. See this and everything else that Clyde Bat Group have to offer at www.clydebatgroup.co.uk

In Brief.....

- **2 New Roosts** found this Summer in West Lothian.
- **Natterer's Bat and Brown Long-eared Bat** recorded for the first time in canal roosts.
- **Harp Trapping** studies begin this year at 2 sites.
- **91 Surveys** completed during 2001/2003 involving 63 volunteer surveyors.
- **Duke Of Edinburgh Silver Award** students deliver 60 hours towards Bat Conservation and make the grade.
- **Newsletter** is now issued to more than 120 people and organisations who are involved with or expressed an interest in this project.
- **6 Bat Events** delivered to 90 members of the public so far.
- **Newsletter No 7** – due out in April 2004.

BaTML Team 2003

All of our work is very much a team effort and once again in 2003 we have received lots of help and support from many people and organisations. We would fall far short of achieving our objectives without the co-operation and goodwill of many others, including all of the following. Thanks again for your help this year and please continue to offer your support in the future.

James Aegerter, Laura Black, Aldyth Carrick, Paul Carter, Duncan Clark, Susan Craig, John Cruden, Amanda Durlik, Julie Ellam, Pat Emslie, Thea Esk, Paul Ewing, Maggie Fergusson, Frank Flemming, Dawn Gahagan, Chris Gould, Kirsty Gourlay, Scott Gourlay, Neil Grant, Callum Hollywood, John Howell, Alan Jeffrey, David Knox, Olivia Lassiere, Helen Lundie, Stewart MacFarlane, Lindsay MacKinlay, Fiona MacLean, Scot Mathieson, Alan McBride, Paul Mauchline, Catriona Morrison, Kirsty Morrison, Ian and Fay Pascoe, Emily Raemaekers, Caroline Robertson, Ben Ross, Glen Rudman, Stuart Smith



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

SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE

British Waterways

FALKIRK ENVIRONMENT TRUST

Clyde Bat Group

Central Scotland Bat Group

The Waterways Trust Scotland Asks For Feedback

The Waterways Trust *Scotland* is a charity established in 1999, which aims to promote greater public enjoyment and awareness of the UK's waterways. As Community Access Co-ordinator my role is to consult communities along the Forth & Clyde and Union Canals about their views on access issues to the canal and canal towpath. This year I participated in a couple of **BaTML** surveys allowing me to meet some of the volunteers and learn about the wildlife. A questionnaire is being circulated to some people involved with your project to try and get a general feeling as to what they think of the canal. I am hoping to meet more groups and individuals along the canal throughout the next year and would welcome views via email, phone or in writing. My contact details are provided below :-

Amanda Durlik

Community Access Co-ordinator

The Waterways Trust *Scotland*

The Old Basin

Applecross Street

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2003 Season Round Up

Another season past, so what have we achieved so far? Well 91 surveys over a 3 year period is no small feat in itself. Bearing in mind that each evening we usually collect 3 hours of data, this means that so far we have collated 273 hours worth. With most sites having now been done at least 3 times we really are beginning to get some strong comparisons coming through. Our results are remaining fairly consistent when looked at as a total across the canal corridors. Daubenton's occur at every site, albeit usually not in large numbers, while Soprano pipistrelle is widespread and Bandit pipistrelle absent from many sites. As previously reported we still record a large number of pipistrelle's that cannot be confirmed as either Soprano or Bandit, although we strongly suspect most of these to be the former.



This year two new species of bat have entered into the frame. Natterer's bat has been recorded for the first time near to the Union Canal, close to the Avon Aqueduct and again near the Lins Mill Aqueduct. In addition, single Brown Long-eared bats have also been recorded at each of these sites. The presence of Natterer's does reinforce to the project team that when monitoring Daubenton's bats using bat detectors an error ratio should be considered as a result of Natterer's bats that could also be present. The echolocation of these two species is very similar with some experts saying they can be separated and others saying they cannot. We are of the opinion that it is not safe to be 100% definite about all of our records and as such accept that an error ratio exists, albeit a small one.

These new bats were found to be present through using a Harp Trap (see photo) over roost entrances where we suspected Daubenton's bats were roosting. We successfully caught and identified bats from the 2 sites and the results are shown herewith. Most of the bats caught were male Daubenton's with the odd female bat being present. It was also pleasing to see a small number of immature bats within these colonies. Now we know where the males are hanging out, we hope to track down some female maternity roosts nearby next year.

Species	Site 1	Site 2
Daubenton's	27	23
Natterer's	2	3
Brown Long-eared	1	1

Bat Studies Course - August 2004

Over the past couple of months we have explored the feasibility of running training events in conjunction with **BaTML** activities. As such a 3 day course (including 2 evenings field work) has been organised for the 9th to the 11th August 2004. The course entitled "**Field Surveying and Habitat Assessment For Bats**" is aimed at individuals or organisations who wish to understand to a good level of detail how bats interact with their habitat and how to survey for bats using different methods. The use of different types of bat detector and sound analysis will also feature heavily.

Centred in purpose built premises on the Union Canal, two nights accommodation, breakfast, lunch, refreshments and course material are all included within the cost of £145 per person (payable by instalments). Places are limited to 20 attendees (a couple have already been taken up). So if you or your organisation wish to attend please register your interest with us as soon as possible (Contact Editor). Upon registration of interest full course details will be issued.

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.