

BATS & The Millennium Link

www.batml.org.uk

EDITOR :-
NEIL MIDDLETON
25 KILLIN DRIVE, POLMONT, FK2 0QQ
Tel - 01324 710007 Email - middleneil@msn.com

NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 7
March 2004

A New Look to our Newsletter sets us up nicely for the 2004 Season. As some of you will already know we have now launched our own website which gives full details surrounding the work that many of you have contributed towards. We felt it was important to make the site as professional and thorough as possible. We would like to thank Darren Rollett and Julie Ellam of **Room 108 Ltd** for achieving this successfully. So if you haven't visited www.batml.org.uk yet please do so, you may even recognise some of the people in the pictures ! The website enables us to promote our activities to the widest audience and also allows us to provide volunteers, supporters and funders with up-to-date information and considerably more detail than we have in the past. You can also access all kinds of associated information via the Links page as well as previous Newsletters and our latest Annual Report in the Archive.

With Thanks

In November 2003 the **Bat Conservation Trust** invited **BaTML** to do a presentation at their Scottish Conference. Overall it was an excellent event with attendance well over 100. It is a must for anyone interested in bat related issues. So if you have never been to one try and go next time round.

Over recent months our work has attracted more publicity and along with this some positive Bat PR. We would first of all like to thank Frank Flemming for arranging a short article within **Scottish Wildlife Trust's Clyde News** (Spring 2004).

In addition to this Kirsty Morrison organised an excellent article in the Spring edition of **Lothian Life Magazine**. A two page spread with lots of positive information on bats. We would like to thank the editor, Suse Coon, for giving us such good coverage.

In Brief.....

- **Annual Report 2003** now available on our website for you to download.
- **91 Surveys** completed during 2001/2003 involving 63 volunteer surveyors.
- **24 Survey Sites** being covered.
- **273 Hours** of data collected.
- **Newsletter Circulation** 147 people/organisations currently on our distribution list.
- **Previous Newsletters** can be downloaded from our website.
- **Newsletter No 8** due out in October 2004. If you would like us to include anything please get in touch.
- **Want to get involved ?** It's easy just phone or email the editor.

BTCV Bat Course – 21st May 2004 How To Organise & Lead A Bat Walk

The above course is being organised by **BTCV** along with the **Bat Conservation Trust**. If you have ever wanted specific training in this area then here is an excellent chance for you to spend an evening at Stirling University learning about Scottish bats, bat detectors, risk assessment and the educational resources available from **BCT**. No prior experience is necessary although as the title suggests the course is aimed at people who get involved with or plan to take public/guided walks. The cost is very reasonable at £55.00 for non **BTCV** members or £50.00 for members. The course will be lead by the **BCT's** Scottish Officer, Anne Youngman. For more detail please contact Helen at **BTCV Scotland** – Tel 01786 479697 / Email scotland@btcv.org.uk

BaTML Survey Activities Planned For 2004

We have now put together our 2004 survey schedule with the intention to carry out 25 surveys between April and September. If you would like to get involved please contact us. This years activity will cover the following sites on the Union (UN) and Forth & Clyde (FC) canals :-

Avontoun (UN), Causewayend (UN), Falkirk Tunnel (UN), Carmuir (FC), Fawnspark (UN), Gogar Moor (UN), Jellyhill (FC), Kelvinhead (FC), Kirkintilloch West (FC), Learielaw (UN), Netherton (FC), Possil Loch (FC), Tintock (FC), Wilcoxholm (UN), Wilkies Basin (UN), Winchburgh (UN)

As well as our standard echolocation surveys we will also during 2004 be involved with harp trapping, a foraging study and research on insect activity.

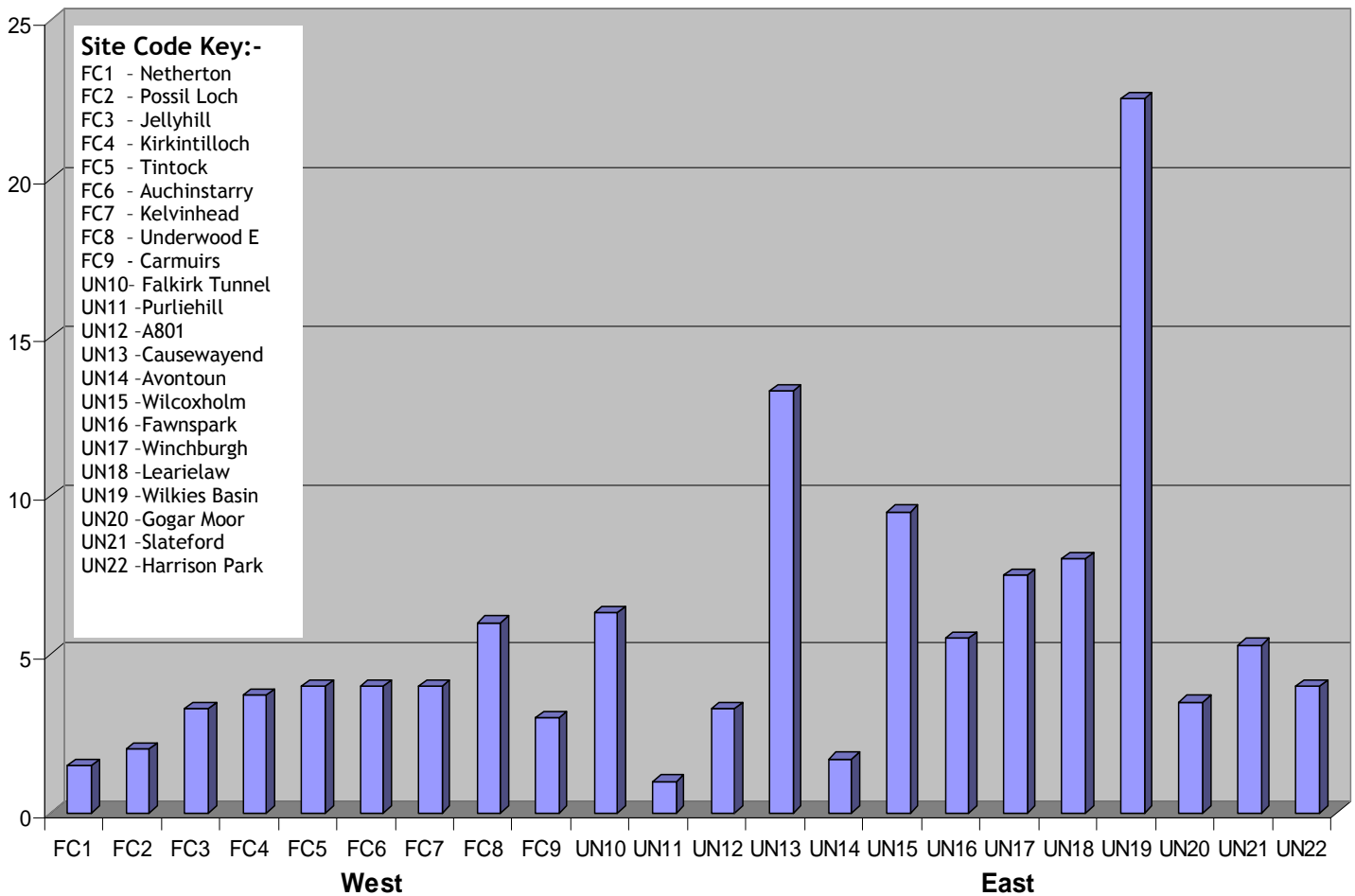


BATS & The Millennium Link is supported by the following organisations :-

SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE British Waterways FALKIRK ENVIRONMENT TRUST

Central Scotland Bat Group Clyde Bat Group Lothians Bat Group The Bat Conservation Trust

Daubenton's Average Number Minimum Bats Per Site



BaTML Course – August 2004 Field Surveying & Habitat Assessment

In our last newsletter we mentioned that we intended to run the above course. We are very pleased to say that all 20 places have now been filled. Delegates are coming from as far afield as Caithness and Yorkshire, representing a number of organisations including National Trust Scotland, Northumberland Wildlife Trust, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage and The Royal Society For The Protection Of Birds. The course is taking place on the Union Canal over a period of three days in August. One of our objectives is to share our knowledge and raise the profile of bats to as wide an audience as possible and we see this event as contributing towards this. If you have enrolled, thanks for your support and we look forward to meeting you all in August.

Annual Report 2003 Onwards

The graph above shows the average minimum number of Daubenton's bats recorded during our surveys at each study site. The data having been collected between 2001 and 2003.

This detail along with the results to date for many aspects of our research is available on our website for you to look at. This is a major step for us, in that the web enables us to make far more information available to all of our volunteers and other interested parties. In the past the cost of producing Annual Reports prevented us from doing this and we know that many of you will now be pleased to have access to this level of detail. It is our intention to update the report on the website annually with the latest version.

Prey Analysis

Craig Macadam has already carried out some research regarding insect activity our canals and during 2004 it is our intention to have, permanently in place, a Malaise Trap along with data logging equipment measuring water/air temperatures. The information collected, along with some other variables, will greatly improve our knowledge on the potential prey available to our foraging bats. As well as this it is hoped that analysis of bat droppings collected from one of our roosts nearby will help complete the picture. Craig has already been testing the techniques required in order to do this. To find out more access our Annual Report available via the website.



Pictured Left :-
Plumose antenna of a non-biting midge. Extracted from a Daubenton's bat dropping.

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.