

BATS & The Millennium Link

www.batml.org.uk

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An excellent season where we achieved all that we set out to, and somehow managed to squeeze in even more....a woodland survey for pipistrelles, a standard canal survey, the piloting of habitat use technology, the search for a specific roost and our malaise trap in situ' all sounds extremely industrious - but all in one night ! There is no doubt that the level of support and encouragement we get from many people has been brilliant and the team effort inspirational. With project expansion comes a heavier workload, the need to work in teams, develop new ideas and keep things fresh for everyone involved. With all of this in mind we welcome two new additions onto our Project Team. **David Dodds (Project Co-ordinator)** and **Shoana Mackenzie (Project Administrator)** will each in their own way add to our existing strengths and both have already made considerable contributions to what we are doing.

Masters Student Thesis

Once again we have teamed up with Napier University to assist with student project work. This year Masters student **Sarah Clear** has been working with **BaTML** on a project looking at distribution and habitat use by pipistrelle bats in the Edinburgh/ West Lothian area.

A small team of people have been helping Sarah with the field work and in particular we would wish to thank **BaTML** volunteers **Valerie Densmore, Michael Kizis** and **Nichola Clear** for providing on site support and **Jonathan Kendrew** for his technical expertise in the field. We will tell you about the results in the next newsletter.

Royal Bank Funding

A big thanks to **Shoana Mackenzie** for assisting us with obtaining funding from the **Royal Bank Of Scotland** via their Community Cashback Award Scheme.

In Brief.....

- **Scottish Bat Conference 2004** to be held on Sat 27th November. For details go to : www.bats.org.uk
- **New Soprano pipistrelle roost and first Bandit pipistrelle roost** found close to Union Canal.
- **Daubenton's - Ringing programme** underway at 2 sites. Over 130 individual Daubenton's bats identified. Pregnant females found in both of our canal roosts.
- **151 Surveys** completed during 2001/2004 involving **96 volunteers. 366 Hours** of data collected.
- **28 Survey Sites** now being monitored.
- **Newsletter Circulation** 188 people/organisations on our distribution list.
- **Previous Newsletters & Annual Report 2003** can be downloaded from our website. Go to Archive.
- **Newsletter No 9** due out in March 2005. If you would like us to include anything please get in touch.



BaTML Course (1st-3rd Aug 2005) - Register Now

After the success of our 2004 course (see over) we have decided to hold another one in August 2005. It will take place over 3 days (including 2 evenings field work) during the 1st to the 3rd August 2005. Entitled "**Field Surveying and Habitat Assessment For Bats**" this course 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 Habitat Modules - site analysis, appropriate survey techniques, the use of bat detectors and interpretation of bat ultrasound, will all contribute towards the learning. 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 £195 per person (can be paid by instalments). Places are limited to 20 delegates, and were taken up very quickly last year. So if you or your organisation wish to attend please register your interest with us as soon as possible. (Contact : middleneil@msn.com)



Volunteer Team 2004

2004 has seen lots of new people get involved with **BaTML** and good numbers of our previous volunteers returning. We really appreciate the support we get from you all, so thanks for contributing to the project. Without you we would struggle to achieve anything meaningful :-

Brian Alton, Duncan Clark, Toby Clark, Nichola Clear, Sarah Clear, Fiona Cox, Pat Emslie, Susan Craig, John Cruden, Valerie Densmore, Julie Ellam, Pat Emslie, Maggie Ferguson, Frank Fleming, Gillian Forbes, Kirsty Gourlay, Martin Gray, John Haddow, Jenny Hogg, Len Howcut, Jonathan Kendrew, Michael Kizis, Olivia Lassiere, Alan Leitch, Amelia Lister-Kaye, Helen Lundie, Alison McKelvie, Iain Mackie, Tom McGregor, Catriona Morrison, Denise Neely, Louise Orrock, Beccy Osborne, Peter Reynolds, Scott Riddell, Peter Rigby, Caroline Robertson, Darren Rollett, Hannah Sarna, Rachel Sherman, Laura Smith, Stuart Smith, Stewart Storrie, Sue Swift, Natalie Taylor, Ian Warburton, Hazel White, Brian Wilson, Anne Youngman

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

SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE British Waterways FALKIRK ENVIRONMENT TRUST The Royal Bank Of Scotland
Central Scotland Bat Group Clyde Bat Group BTCV Lothians Bat Group The Bat Conservation Trust

BaTML Course 2004

In August we delivered our first **BaTML** course, Field Surveying & Habitat Assessment For Bats. Delegates (pictured right) joined us from all over the UK for three days packed solid with bat related topics. During the course we managed to produce close encounters with Soprano pipistrelle, Daubenton's and Brown Long-eared bats. The combination of practical sessions, bat detector training and excellent presentations from our guest presenters on various topics proved to work really well.

We would like to take this opportunity not only to thank all of those who helped us deliver this course successfully, but also for the enthusiasm and support from all the delegates who made the whole event very enjoyable for us to deliver.



Malaise Trap In Place During 2004

This season, with the co-operation of a landowner next to the canal, we have been able to take a number of samples of insects that were present on the canal over the bat season. Each month from May onwards we put the trap (pictured left) in place for a one week period and the amount of data collected has been substantial to say the least.

This trapping technique allows us to research a number of aspects, namely :-

- Identify families/species of insects present in the area
- Look at seasonal variation in insect activity along the canal corridor
- Consider which of these insects may be potential bat prey
- Build a library of samples, thus allowing us to identify bits of insects that we may find in bat droppings

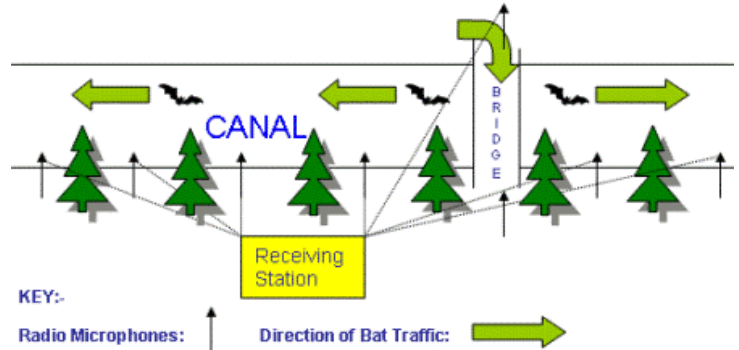
We would like to thank Mrs Hastings for being so helpful and allowing us access to her land in order that this work could be done. Meanwhile **Craig Macadam** has a busy winter ahead of him as he analyses the samples.



Habitat Use Profiling - Concludes Pilot Year

One aspect of our work that we felt needed improving was the ability to allow us to be more specific as to where many of our bats using the canal corridors roost. With this in mind **David Dodds** joined the Project Team in 2004. We have now been able to develop a versatile survey model that allows us to narrow down points where bats are entering/exiting the canal system. In addition, this system also enables us to begin to build **Habitat Use Profiles** for the canals, which will include foraging hotspots and adjoining commuting corridors. Using radio wave technology, in conjunction with high frequency sensors, we are able to monitor what is happening at specific points as far away as 2km from our receiving station. We are fairly certain that once again we have found another new and innovative way to study bats.

In 2005 we plan to role this model out to a number of specific sites on each of the canals, giving our volunteers another area in which they can become involved and contribute towards bat conservation.



BCT National Conference

We would like to thank **The Bat Conservation Trust** for inviting us to speak at their National Conference held this September in Reading. The weekend was excellent throughout with lots of high quality presentations and displays.

One of the most memorable moments, however, was the presentation of the very first **Annual Pete Guest Award** to **Tony Hutson** for his contributions to bat conservation over a period of many years.

BCT Scottish Bat Conference

If you missed it last year, you don't really want to miss it again, do you ! At time of going to press we cannot give you all the detail however we can tell you that it is going to be in Battleby on Saturday the 27th November. We suggest that you keep checking the BCT website for details (www.bats.org.uk).

We would also like to take this opportunity to pass on our thanks to **Anne Youngman**, BCT's Scottish Bat Officer for all of her help and support this year.

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 E-News Is Here

This edition of our Newsletter is the first to be distributed to many of our supporters by email. The popularity of the newsletter has grown substantially over the past 12 months with our distribution list fast approaching 200. If you have received this by email and would prefer to continue receiving a hard copy, or indeed vice versa, just let us know and we will be more than happy to oblige. In addition we now have the ability to email those on the electronic distribution list about any relevant news relating to bats or the project as it happens. If you want to be added to this distribution list please let us know. (Contact : projectadministrator@batml.org.uk)