



# The Echo



Newsletter of the Warwickshire Bat Group

June 1999

Gosh! Newsletter time comes around quickly. It's been a busy season already. Group members have taken part in Pipistrelle and Lesser Horseshoe counts. We have been present at a couple of shows, spreading the bat friendly message to all. Our newly licensed members have now been invited to assist English Nature with their bat work.

As mentioned in the previous issue of The Echo, we have decided to run a number bat walks for members over the summer months. These walks have been planned in different parts of the county and on different days, so that as many members as possible can attend. The first walk is on 19<sup>th</sup> June and starts just outside Stratford. See the Bat Diary later in this newsletter for more details of this, and other WBG bat walks. If you need directions for any of these walks then maps are available on request.

For those people who wish to brush up on their bat detector technique or even just find out more about echolocation, we are holding a bat detector workshop at Coombe Abbey. See below for more details.

John Waller

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### **Bat Detector Workshop at Coombe**

Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1999 from 7.30pm

Jules Baker of the BCT is running a mini bat detector workshop at Coombe Country Park near Coventry. The workshop will consist of two sections. The first part will be a talk all about how bats use echolocation and following a short break the second section will be more practical session on how to get the most out of your detector.

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### **Colin Catto's Bat Detector Workshop**

15<sup>th</sup> May 1999, organised by Leics Bat Group

If you want to take a considerable leap forward in how you approach using Bat Box III and Tranquillity 'time expansion' bat detectors then do yourself a favour and book a place on one of the remaining training workshops. If, like me, you're never quite sure what the detector is actually telling you, this course will really boost your confidence and more importantly your field identification skills. The textbooks only tell you so much – this course begins to deal with all the important field 'jizz'.

Colin expertly takes you through the component parts of echolocation calls, concentrating on sound repetition rates, rhythm, pitch and the various tonal qualities that go to make up each call. Pipistrelle (45 & 55), Daubenton's, Noctule and Serotine calls are all covered in detail, enabling those on the

course to contribute further to the current NBMP surveys should they wish to. You even get the chance to check the calibration of your own Bat Box III for accuracy.

The 'time expansion' Tranquillity detector was also explained and although more complex to use than the mini detectors the resulting data played back and analysed through a laptop (with some extremely impressive sound analysis software) has to be seen and heard to be believed.

Was that quick pass a Noctule, Leisler's or Serotine? Is that Pip echolocating at 39, 45 or 55kHz?

Providing you have some part of the call on tape via the detector, Colin is able to produce positive species identification from the merest snippet of recorded sound with comparative ease and great accuracy. You don't have to be a scientist to understand what's actually going on, just a reasonably competent button pusher!

Martin Baxter

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### **BAT DIARY**

Here's a list of the latest bat events that we know of. If you know of any other batty "happenings" please send us the details or email us on [batgroup@jwaller.demon.co.uk](mailto:batgroup@jwaller.demon.co.uk) so that we can include them.

12<sup>th</sup> June 1999 - 22.00

#### **Bat & Moth Night at Ryton Pools Country Park**

Meet at the Visitor Centre at Ryton Pools Country Park. Cost £1.50 (75p for senior citizens, children, unemployed) plus car parking charge. Limited places so book on 024 7630 5592. Bring a torch!

16<sup>th</sup> June 1999 - 21.00

#### **Bat Walk at Tocil Wood**

Paul Elliott is leading a bat walk on behalf of Warks Wildlife Trust (<http://www.wildlifetrust.org.uk>) around the Tocil Wood area on Warwick University campus. For further details phone Warks Wildlife Trust on 024 7630 2912.

19<sup>th</sup> June 1999 – 21.00

#### **WBG bat walk at Stratford**

Meet in the car park/picnic area on the A439 on the north of Stratford (SP210558).

22<sup>nd</sup> June 1999 –19.30

#### **Bat Detector Workshop at Coombe Country Park**

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Web Site: <http://www.jwaller.demon.co.uk/batgroup>

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E-Mail: [batgroup@jwaller.demon.co.uk](mailto:batgroup@jwaller.demon.co.uk)

Tel: 024 7644 9741

26<sup>th</sup> June 1999

### **Amazing Bats!**

Paul Elliott is running a 'Twilight' School (as opposed to Dayschool) at Warwick University (nr Coventry) through the Open Studies scheme. This comes highly recommended and will give you a thorough introduction to bats. It includes a guided bat walk in the evening. For more information phone the Open Studies department on 024 7652 3831 (<http://www.warwick.ac.uk/study/lifelong/open.html>)

16<sup>th</sup> July 1999 - 22.00

### **Bat & Moth Night II at Ryton Pools Country Park**

Meet at the Visitor Centre at Ryton Pools Country Park. Cost £1.50 (75p for senior citizens, children, unemployed) plus car parking charge. Limited places so book on 024 7630 5592. Bring a torch!

23<sup>rd</sup> July 1999 – 20.30

### **WBG bat walk at Rugby**

Meet (in the garden if the weather permits) at the Country Inn public house in Main Street, Long Lawford (SP473759).

27<sup>th</sup> July 1999 – 21.00

### **Bat Walk at Canley Ford**

The "Friends of Canley Ford" are holding a bat walk at Canley Ford in Coventry.

31<sup>st</sup> July 1999 – 21.00

### **Bat Walk in the Memorial Park, Coventry**

Meet at the 'Park & Ride' bus stop in the main car park off Kenilworth Road. This is a follow up to the walk that took place here on 29<sup>th</sup> May.

16<sup>th</sup> August 1999 – 20.30

### **WBG bat walk at Canley Ford**

Meet at the end of Canley Ford lane (SP314771).

18<sup>th</sup> August 1999 - 19.30-21.30

### **Bats & BBQ Night at Kingsbury Water Park**

A short talk followed by a barbecue and then a bat walk. Meet at Broomey Croft car park. Cost £3.00 (£1.50 for senior citizens, children, and unemployed) which includes the BBQ but excludes car parking charge. Please book in advance on 01827 872660.

21<sup>st</sup> August 1999 – 11.00 to 15.00

### **Open Day at Ensor's Pool, Nuneaton**

The bat group is having a stall at this SSSI. Ensor's Pool is situated off Heath End Road in Nuneaton. This former clay pit is now a home for native crayfish, which, like bats, are a protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> August 1999

### **European Bat Research Symposium, Krakow, Poland**

<http://www.york.biosis.org/zrdocs/confs/confs99/bat.htm>

27<sup>th</sup> August 1999

### **Wildlife Workshop at Brandon Marsh Nature Centre**

Aimed at children aged between 4 - 11 years. Based on practical exploration, the workshop is fun and yet educational with a slide show, batty games and crafts. Each workshop

lasts 2 hours. There is one in the morning (10.30-12.30) and a repeat in the afternoon (2-4pm). The cost is £3.50 per child which is payable on the day. Booking is essential on 024 7630 8977.

### **Family Bat Walk at Brandon Marsh Nature Centre**

Listen to bats using bat detectors and watch them hunting for prey. The event is from 9.15pm to 10.45pm. Bring a torch! The cost is £3 per family (Warks Wildlife Trust members) or £6 per family (non-members) which is payable on the day. Booking is essential on 024 7630 8977.

28<sup>th</sup> August 1999

### **European Bat Night**

28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> August 1999

### **Town & Country Festival**

This is held at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warks. We have a bat stall, so come and say hello!  
<http://www.rase.org.uk/events/townco98.html>

10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> September

### **National Bat Conference at Ripon**

This year's annual conference is to be held at University College of Ripon and York St John, Ripon Campus. Booking forms will be sent to all BCT members in July. If you would like details then write to:

The Bat Conservation Trust (Conference)

FREEPOST LON 10138

London

SW8 4BR

14<sup>th</sup> September 1999 – 19.30

### **WBG walk at Hatton Locks near Warwick**

Meet in the Hatton Locks car park on the A4177 just to the west of Warwick (SP250666).



I went on a bat walk with 60 other people on Saturday. The man told me all about bats and we used bat detectors to find them, they made funny noises. They eat insects across the water. They are not nasty animals. Pipistrelles only weigh as much as a 2p coin and eat 3,000 midges a night. I WAS BRILL. Adam King age 11 1/2

Thanks to Maggie King for sending us the above drawing and to Adam King, the artist.