



BAT NEWS

*Newsheet of the Warwickshire Bat Group
Issue 1, March 1994*

Introduction

Welcome to the first issue of Bat News the newsheet of the Warwickshire Bat Group. We are planning to issue two editions a year in March and September and if you would like to have an article included please send it to Andrea Elson at Brandon Marsh Nature Centre. We are going to include news, events, sightings and anything else that we feel would be of interest to you.

Events

There are three bat events planned for the coming months that may be of interest to you.

BATS AND BURGERS

Friday 15th April, 7 pm

A walk and talk organised by Coombe Abbey Country Park with a sign language interpreter. Burgers and vegi-burgers will be available afterwards at an extra charge. Further information from Coombe Abbey on (0203) 453720.

AMAZING BATS

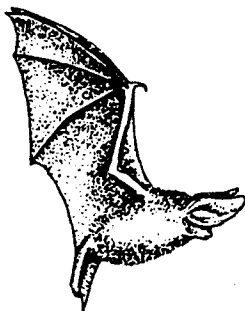
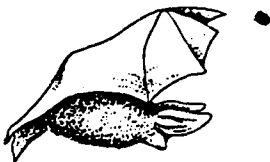
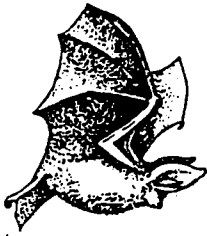
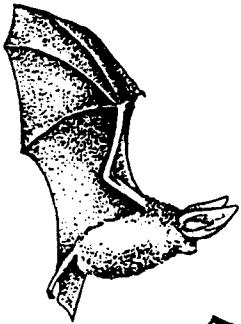
Saturday 7th May, 3.30 - 9.30 pm

A day school run by the University of Warwick. For further details telephone the Open Studies Office on 0203 523831. The fees are £14 standard, £11 retired, £6 students, state benefit, state pension.

GETTING TO KNOW BATS

Wednesday 15th June, 7.30 - 9.30 pm

As part of National Wildlife Week we are holding a walk and talk to be held at Brandon Marsh Nature Centre. Chris Brooke-Harris will give an illustrated talk followed by a question and answer session. We will then walk around the reserve looking for bats and their roosts. The cost is only £1 for adults and 50p for children and all proceeds go the Bat Group. To book a place telephone Andrea Elson on 0203 302912.



Officers

Chris Brooke-Harris

Bat Conservation Officer

Eden Speller

Assistant Conservation Officer

Andrea Elson

Secretary/Publicity Officer

Christine Pearce

Treasurer

All of the above can be contacted during the week on 0203 302912

Emergencies

If you find an injured bat phone us for advice - if not available take to a vet, who will advise, your visit will be free. Give the bat watered-down skimmed milk on a teaspoon, place in a shoe box or similar with a paper towel (for it to snuggle up into) for transportation.

Emergency ONLY outside office hours Telephone: Chris Brooke-Harris: 0926 336609

County Contacts

CENTRAL WARWICKSHIRE

Steve & Alison Havers on 0926 495024 or 0926 412346

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE

Nigel Bailey on 0203 538958

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE

George Yates on 0789 266364

John Matthews on 0789 294358

David Heaver, Species Protection Officer, English Nature 0743 709611

Murray Hayden, Coombe Abbey Country Park, 0203 453720

Dr Paul Elliot, Warwick University, 0203 52322

Conservation News

Around the County our volunteers are doing conservation work. Bat boxes are desperately needed - if you feel you could make some please contact us.

We have a grant from English Nature to restore some Victorian Grottos, in the south of the county, which are in disrepair and used by bats for hibernation. Also another exciting project is the conversion of an old 'pill box' to a hibernation site for bats. Work for this will hopefully start this spring ready for use next winter - if you want to help contact Eden Speller at Trust Headquarters.

What you can Expect to See at this Time of Year

Not a lot - although bats do feed during the milder spells in winter generally it is a time of sleep. It is important not to disturb any bats in a winter roost - they can starve if they use up their fat reserves and insects are scarce at this time of year. We have received two calls in January telling of bats flying around. Do let me know what you see.

Bats and the Law

Bats and their roosts are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Acts 1981. Should any work be planned that may disturb bats or their roost, English Nature must be consulted.

Bat Profile

Pipistrelle Pipistrellus pipistrellus
Pipistrelles are among the smallest British bats with a head and body length of about 4 cm and a wing-span of about 20 cm. They only weigh about 5g. They are variable in colour, but are usually medium to dark brown on the back and only a little paler underneath. They have been known to live for at least 11 years.

They feed over water or along hedgerows and are the most common species in towns and gardens. A single pipistrelle may eat 3000 insects in a single night.

Buildings are the most favoured roost sites especially those less than 25 years old. They prefer to roost in very confined spaces around the outside of buildings and the access hole can be a slit as little as 0.5 inch wide. Pipistrelles very rarely enter roof spaces except in the more stable, well-established large colonies. They usually start to emerge from the roost about 20 minutes after sunset although the time can depend on the weather.

Fundraising

To enable us to protect the bats of Warwickshire by carrying out surveys, visiting roosts, providing advice and information we need to raise funds. This could be done by increasing membership - encourage your friends to join, running events - please support us by attending or individual members carrying out their own fundraising initiatives. Any events can be publicised in this newsheet and results can be published here. We look forward to hearing from you.