

**European Community Directive
on the Conservation of Natural Habitats
and of Wild Fauna and Flora
(92/43/EEC)**

**Second Report by the United Kingdom under
Article 17
on the implementation of the Directive
from January 2001 to December 2006**

**Conservation status assessment for
Rare and occasional bat species**

Please note that this is a section of the report. For the complete report visit <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/article17>

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Rare and occasional bat species

In addition to the bat species for which UK conservation status assessments have been made, there are four species that are either considered vagrants or in the case of *Myotis myotis*, the status is not confirmed.

S1324 *Myotis myotis* Greater Mouse-Eared Bat

The species was known to breed in the UK until the 1970s, but was declared extinct in the UK in 1990. However, an individual juvenile male was found hibernating in southern England in 2002 and has been recorded since then (Bat Conservation Trust 2006). The only female found in recent years was a dying individual on the West Sussex coast (Altringham 2003; BBC 2003).

UK sightings suggest this species has always been restricted to the English southern counties of Dorset and Sussex. Furthermore, Harris *et al.* (1995) suggest it may never have been more than an occasional resident, whose colonies have become periodically established: a small hibernating population was known to persist in Dorset between 1959 and 1980 (cause of extinction was thought to be excessive disturbance); in 1984, a stray migrant was recorded in Kent; and a colony in Sussex was identified in 1969, but after the nursery colony was destroyed by an unknown event in 1979, numbers of hibernating individuals dwindled, leaving just one lone male in Sussex that failed to return after 1990 (Harris *et al.*, 1995; Richardson, 2000; Altringham, 2003).

The current status of this species in the UK is unknown.

S1318 *Myotis dascyneme* Pond Bat

Myotis dascyneme is similar to the Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii* in both morphology and behaviour. In March 2005, a lone individual was rescued from a wall in Kent, but died shortly after. . As yet there are queries over whether this individual was a migrant from Europe, or whether it was a resident, overlooked due to its similarities with *Myotis daubentonii*.

This species is currently considered a vagrant in the UK.

S1332 *Vespertilio murinus* Particoloured Bat

In Europe, this medium-sized bat is known to hibernate around human habitations, including tower blocks, but requires open space for foraging. Occasional records are known throughout Britain, from the south coast of England (including Plymouth, Cambridge, Sussex and Essex) to Shetland and the North Sea (Harris *et al.*, 1995; Richardson, 2000; Altringham, 2003).

This species is currently considered a vagrant in the UK.

S1313 *Eptesicus nilssonii* Northern Bat

Eptesicus nilssonii is similar in size to the serotine *Eptesicus serotinus* and has been found in a wide range of habitats in Europe, including both woodland and farmland. There has been just one record of this species in Britain, identified in 1987, when a single specimen was found in a hibernaculum in Surrey (Harris *et al.*, 1995; Altringham, 2003). *Eptesicus nilssonii* has not been recorded in the UK since the Habitats Directive came into force.

This species is currently considered a vagrant in the UK.

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