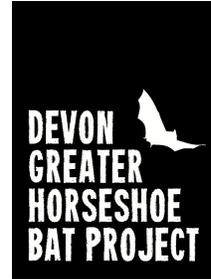


# Devon Bat Survey Report

2018



## Introduction

Thank you for taking part in the Devon Bat Survey. The records that you have helped to provide will help us to work out how bats are using our landscape. This survey is being run as part of the Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project, which is a 5 year partnership project of 18 organisations led by Devon Wildlife Trust and is supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund, as well as other funders.

There are 18 species of bat in Britain and they all have different needs, so some are more likely to be found in dark, rural areas such as the greater horseshoe bat, and others are happy in towns and cities, like the common pipistrelle. All the bats in the UK eat insects, so they are great natural pest controllers! This means that their droppings are made up of tiny bits of insect, so they are crumbly and dry.

Bats find their prey through echolocation - this is where the bat calls at a very high frequency (most humans cannot hear this - although children are sometimes able to) and listens for the return call as it bounces off an object. Horseshoe bats have a special nose-leaf that is shaped like a horseshoe which helps them to direct their calls. This helps them to build up a map of their surroundings and find their prey. It is these calls that the bat detector you borrowed has recorded, and many of these are distinctive to a particular bat, or a group of bats, allowing us to work out what species have been detected.

This report will tell you what bats have flown past your detector. It does not give an exact number of bats, but tells you how many times a bat of each species has been recorded passing by - it could be one bat flying past lots of times! It will also give you some information on each species of bat.

We hope that you have enjoyed taking part in the survey and will take part again next year.

*Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project Team*

### **Survey Details:**

Date of Survey: 2018-08-14

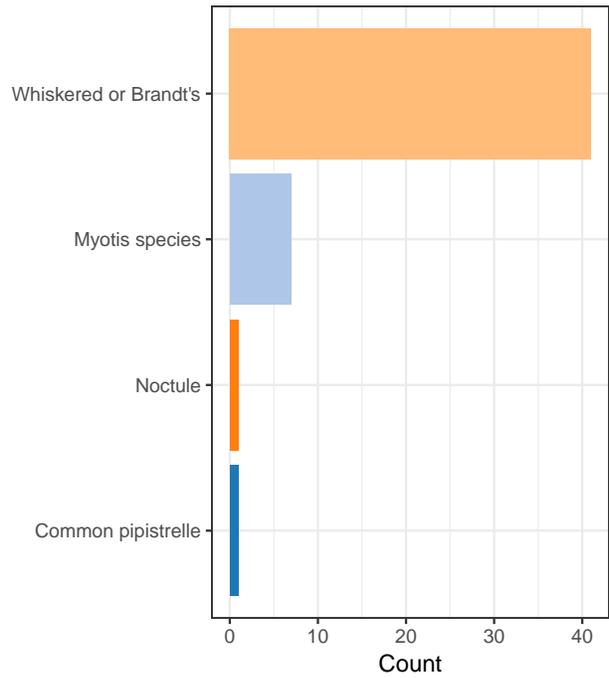
Surname of surveyor: Cutler

Location: Wadlands

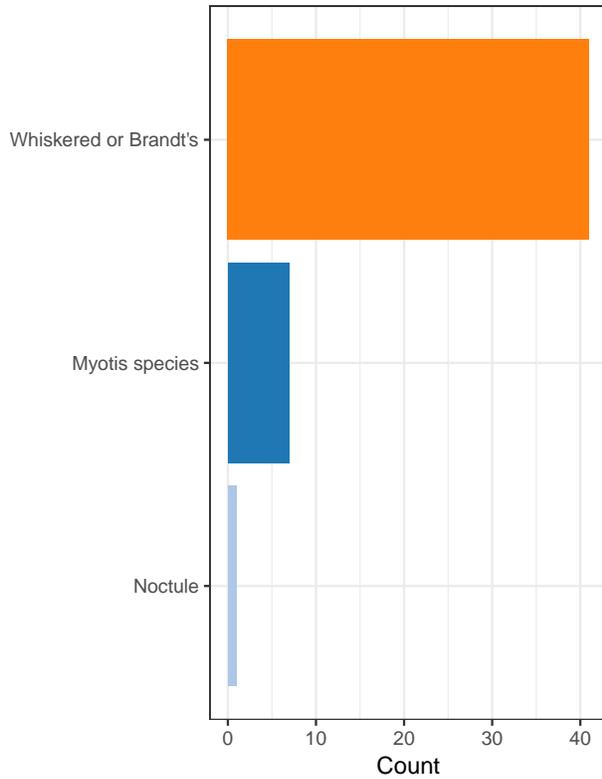
SD card number: 10.5

# Survey Results

Species	Bat Passes (Nr)
Whiskered or Brandt's	41
Myotis species	7
Common pipistrelle	1
Noctule	1



Common & Soprano Pipistrelle's omitted



Below is some information on the species which were found on your survey. For more information please visit the Bat Conservation Trust website <http://www.bats.org.uk>.

### **Common Pipistrelle** *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

Common pipistrelles are the most common and widespread of all British bat species. They are found in lots of places, including towns and cities, as well as in the countryside. They are small, and their flight is fast and jerky as they pursue small insects which they catch and eat whilst flying. A single pipistrelle can consume up to 3,000 insects in one night!

### **Myotis Species**

The Myotis are a group of bats which includes Alcatheo, Bechstein's, Brandt's, Daubenton's, Natterer's and Whiskered bats. They all make very similar sounds which mean that sometimes it is very hard to tell them apart from their recordings alone.

### **Whiskered or Brandt's**

Whiskered and Brandt's bats are very similar in appearance, both are small with slightly shaggy fur - and Brandt's is normally a bit bigger, but often DNA analysis is the only way to tell them apart. They are often found in slightly different areas; whiskered bats are mostly found in open wooded country, often near water, whilst Brandt's feed through the night at low heights in woodland, parks, meadows and near water bodies.

### **Noctule** *Nyctalus noctula*

The noctule is one of the largest British species and is striking with its sleek golden brown fur and very dark face and wings. It flies high and fast in a straight line with occasional steep swoops as it pursues insects and catches them on the wing. As a fast-flyer it is less vulnerable to predators so emerges from its roost early, sometimes even before sunset, and is often seen flying over tree-tops. Noctules favour open habitats such as pasture, woodland edge, marshland and parkland, and they are also commonly found close to rivers and lakes.

*The code that generated this report, from the analysed survey data, was produced by Steve Markham of Devon Bat Group and Marquis & Lord Ltd.*

DWT ref: 518



**Devon**  
Wildlife Trust

**Funding raised by**  
**The National Lottery**  
and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund

