

BATS OF THE FERTŐ- HANSÁG NATIONAL PARK

By

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Records of 18 species of bats representing two families from the territory of the Fertő-Hanság Nemzeti Park are listed. The distribution and status of each species is also given.

In respect of the bat fauna the territory of the Fertő-Hanság National Park (FHNP) is less investigated and for this reason relatively few data is available in the literature. The main reason for the lack of information is that though diverse habitats occur within the borders of the FHNP there are just few old forests and caves providing daily shelters and hibernacula for bats and the territory itself was not interesting enough for bat researchers. The first data were listed by Méhely (1900) and subsequent works were made by Paszlavszky (1918), Éhik (1924) and Vásárhelyi (1939). Among others, these works were summarized and completed with his own records by Topál (1954). It was only in 1988 when newer data were published by Dobrosi (1988) and in the 1990's Miklós Szatyor conducted field work on the territory of the FHNP.

Since the bats when hunting at night frequently take long journeys between the resting places and feeding grounds (both are equally important for their protection), those localities which are actually not inside but close to the protected area and housing colonies of bats are also listed.

The recent records published in this paper are partly based on the yearly survey of house-dwelling bats organized by the Hungarian Bat Research Society and partly on my own data gathered between 1994 and 2001 by means of direct observation, mist-netting and ultrasound recording. The records of a particular species from the same locality are listed by time order and the month of the observation(s) is given at the end of each species text. The abbreviations of the sources of information (beside the published data) given under the species headings are as follows: HBRS - the database of the Hungarian Bat Research Society; KP - Károly Papp own data.

Due to the protected status of the species and since the identification in most cases were verified by hand-held individuals no voucher specimens were taken.

The species are treated according to the systematic order and scientific names as given by Schober and Grimberger (1998).

LIST OF SPECIES

RHINOLOPHIDAE

Rhinolophus hipposideros (Bechstein, 1800) - Fertőboz (Sólymosy 1939, HBRS, Papp 1996); Sopron: Taródy-vár (Papp 1996, HBRS, Szatyor 1997), Szárhalmi-erdő / Zsivány-barlang (Szatyor 1997, KP). V, VII-X.

Because of the few suitable habitats a rare species in the National Park. The greatest colony of the lesser horseshoe bat comprising of 20-25 individuals was found outside the protected area, in the Fertőd Castle.

VESPERTILIONIDAE

Myotis daubentonii (Kuhl, 1819) – Barbacs: Barbacsi-tó, Csáfordjánosfa: Csáfordi-erdő, Répce part; Csorna: Csornai-Hany, Tarcsai-éger; Fehértó: Fehér-tó; Fertőboz: Csúcsos szőlő, Kereszt hegy, Kóny: Tündér-tó; Lébény: Tölgy-erdő; Sarród (KP); Sopron: (Méhely 1900, Paszlavszky 1918, Topál 1954, KP, Szatyor 1997), Szárhalmi-erdő (KP). IV-IX.

A widespread species in territory of the FHNP, common in well-watered areas.

Myotis brandtii (Eversmann 1845) - Lébény: Tölgy-erdő (Szatyor 1997); Sopron (KP). VI-VII.

The occurrence of this relatively rare and generally highland species is quite surprising in the Hanság.

Myotis mystacinus (Kuhl, 1819) – Györsövényháza (Szatyor 1997); Sopron (KP). V-VII.

Another rare species which occurrence is related to the forests. The animal mist-netted at Györsövényháza was caught very near to the protected area of Fehér-tó.

Myotis emarginatus (Geoffroy 1806) – Sopron (Papp 1996, Szatyor 1997, HBRS). IV-IX.

A colony which was found in 1997 in a detached house is the most significant one in West Hungary. Fortunately, the owners of the house are extremely proud of the presence of the bats. The wintering place of the colony still unknown.

Myotis nattereri: (Kuhl, 1818) - Csáfordjánosfa: Csáfordi-erdő (KP); Sopron (Dobrosi 1988, KP, Szatyor 1997). V-IX.

The species is observable around old woods but uncommon in the National Park.

Myotis myotis (Brokhausen, 1797) – Bősárkány (HBRS, Papp 1996); Csáfordjánosfa: Csáfordi-erdő (KP); Lébény: Tölgy-erdő (Szatyor 1997, KP), Lébény (HBRS, Papp 1996); Sopron: (Méhely 1900, Dobrosi 1988, KP, Szatyor 1997), Szárhalmi-erdő / Zsivány-barlang (Szatyor, 1997). IV-IX.

The large mouse-eared bat is regarded as common species. The data coming from buildings may refer to mixed colonies of *M. myotis* and *M. blythi*. Near the FHNP in Fertőszentmiklós the greatest colony of the species in West Hungary can be found, which in 2001 was made up of about 2500 animals.

Myotis blythii (Tomes, 1857) – Bősárkány; Lébény (HBRS, Papp 1996); Sopron (Éhik 1924, Szatyor 1997, KP). V-VII.

The species was less frequently mist-netted as *M. myotis* but it occurs together with the latter species in buildings where they form mixed colonies.

Nyctalus noctula (Schreber, 1774) – Barbacs: Barbacsi-tó; Csáfordjánosfa: Csáfordi-erdő, Répce menti rétek; Csorna: Csornai-Hany, Tarcsai- éger; Fehértó: Fehér- tó; Fertőboz: Csúcsos szőlő, Kereszt hegy; Fertőrákos: Piuszpuszta; Kapuvár: Cafi domb; Kóny: Tündér- tó; Lébény: Tölgy - erdő; Sarród (KP); Sopron: (Dobrosi 1988; KP, Szatyor 1997), Szárhalmi-erdő (KP). IV-X.

The most common species of bats in the National Park and was perceived by detector almost everywhere.

Nyctalus leisleri (Kuhl, 1818) – Fehértó: Fehér- tó (KP).

A young male the only specimen of the species caught in the National Park so far was mist-netted on 14 July 2001.

Eptesicus serotinus (Schreber, 1774) - Barbacs: Barbacsi-tó (KP); Farád (HBRS, Papp 1996); Fehértó: Fehér- tó (KP); Hidegség; Kóny; Osló (HBRS, Papp 1996); Sopron: Szárhalmi-erdő / Fehér-barlang (KP), Sopron; Szárföld (HBRS, Papp 1996). VI-IX.

The Serotine is one of the most common bat species in Hungary and also very frequently encountered in the National Park, as well.

Vespertilio murinus (Linnaeus, 1758) - Sopron (Dobrosi, 1988).

The reference of this rare bat mentions one male in the autumn migration period.

Pipistrellus pipistrellus (Schreber, 1774) – Sopron: Szárhalmi-erdő (Méhely 1900) Sopron (Paszlavszyk 1918, Dobrosi 1988, Szatyor 1997). VII.

Uncommon species but probably several unknown colonies still exist.

Pipistrellus nathusii (Keyserling at Blasius, 1839) – Lébény: Tölgy-erdő (Szatyor 1997); Sopron (Szatyor 1997, KP). VI-VII.

Its status is similar to that of *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*.

Pipistrellus kuhlii (Kuhl, 1819) – Sopron (Szatyor 1997, KP). VII.

This is the northernmost occurrence in Hungary of this predominantly Mediterranean species. The capture of an old male and a female with sucked nipples in 20 July 1998 presumes a nearby colony.

Plecotus auritus (Linnaeus, 1758) – Csáfordjánosfa: Csáfordi-erdő (KP); Csorna: Csíkos éger (Vásárhelyi 1939); Fehértó: Fehér-tó; Sopron: Szárhalmi-erdő / Zsivány barlang (KP). VII-IX.

The brown long-eared bat is often caught near forests. It is important to note that until 1960 (Bauer 1960) *Plecotus austriacus* was considered as a subspecies of *P. auritus* therefore some earlier data may refer to the former species.

Plecotus austriacus (Fischer, 1829) – Bősárkány; Farád (HBRS, Papp 1996); Fehértó (HBRS, Papp 1996, Szatyor 1997); Kapuvár (HBRS, Papp 1996) Sopron (KP, Szatyor 1997). V-VII.

A common species in Hungary, but it does not occur in greater numbers within the territory of the National Park.

Barbastella barbastellus (Schreber 1774) Gyórsövényháza (Szatyor 1997); Sopron: Szárhalmi-erdő (KP). IX.

Uncommon, forest-dwelling species. The animal mist-netted at Gyórsövényháza was caught very near to the protected area of Fehér-tó.

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