

Daubenton's Bat

Myotis daubentonii



Quick facts

Order Chiroptera

Conservation status

GB *Least concern*



England *Least concern*

Scotland *Least concern*

Wales *Least concern*

Global *Least concern*

GB trend *Unknown*

Size

Head & body 45 - 55 mm

Forearm 34 - 41 mm

Wingspan 240 - 275 mm

Weight 6 - 10g



Mammal
SOCIETY

Daubenton's bat is a medium-sized *Myotis* species with relatively short ears and a blunt tragus. It has brown fur on the back and white-grey fur underneath. Its large feet are covered with stiff bristles.

Habitat

Riparian habitats, particularly large waterways with woodland on both banks.

Behaviour

Summer roosts typically close to water in bankside trees, buildings, and bridges. Frequently recorded swarming at underground sites in autumn, probably associated with mating - known to travel up to 27 km to reach swarming sites. Hibernates in caves and other underground sites.

Diet & Feeding

Characteristically hunts by flying low over water surfaces. Catches aquatic flies from the air, also catches prey from water surface with feet and tail membrane.

Reproduction

Roost switching common during breeding season, sexes usually segregated.

Conservation & Threats

Difficult to identify based on acoustic records alone. Highly under-recorded. Current population trends unknown, but are negatively affected by loss of roost location, foraging habitats, and habitat fragmentation. Lighting of waterways and bridges has a negative impact. Patchy distributions in Scotland and N. Ireland may reflect lower recording effort.

Range

