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Leisler's Bat

Nyctalus leisleri

Quick facts

Order Chiroptera

Conservation status

GB *Near threatened*

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England *Near threatened*

Scotland *Near threatened*

Wales *Least concern*

Global *Least concern*

GB trend *Unknown*

Size

Head & body 50 - 70 mm

Forearm 38 - 47 mm

Wingspan 260 - 320 mm

Weight 12 - 20 g



Mammal
SOCIETY

Leisler's bat is a medium-sized bat species, slightly smaller than the noctule. It has light brown fur with a darker base. It occurs widely in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Population in Scotland is mainly in the south-west, including islands of Arran and Bute.

Habitat

Deciduous woodland, coniferous woodland, mixed rural areas.

Woodland specialist but can adapt to suburban areas.

Behaviour

Emerges early (shortly before sunset) and returns to roost late (soon after sunrise). Mainly hibernates in trees but occasionally in bat boxes and 'tree-like' sites in buildings such as behind wooden fascias. In Northern Ireland, found in large numbers in buildings.

Diet & Feeding

Hunts mainly on the wing on flies, moths, and beetles; diet varies greatly according to habitat.

Reproduction

Maternity roosts in tree holes and crevices (typically rot holes resulting from damage) are preferred to buildings. Species include oak, ash, beech, Scots pine, Norway spruce.

Conservation & Threats

Mostly sympatric with noctule, but in some areas, such as Greater London, Leisler's bat is the more common species. Under-recorded, partly as a result of confusion with acoustic records of noctule and serotine. Habitat remains stable, but there is not enough information to assess whether population sizes are stable, increasing, or decreasing.

Range

