



Serotine Bat

Eptesicus serotinus

Quick facts

Order Chiroptera

Conservation status

GB *Vulnerable*

RE CE E **V** NT LC DD

England *Vulnerable*

Scotland *Not assessed*

Wales *Vulnerable*

Global *Least concern*

GB trend *Unknown*

Size

Head & body 58 - 80 mm

Forearm 48 - 55 mm

Wingspan 320 - 380 mm

Weight 15 - 35 g

The serotine is one of the larger UK bats. It has light brown fur and darker facial features and wings. They are present across southern England and occasionally in Wales, but are absent from Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Habitat

Pastures, parkland.

Behaviour

An early emerging species. Flight is slow but manoeuvrable, flying close to the ground and amongst tree canopies. Summer roosts usually in roofs and walls of large houses. Relatively large foraging range; commutes along treelines or hedgerows for up to 8 km.

Diet & Feeding

Feeds mainly on the wing and occasionally off the ground on moths, beetles, flies.

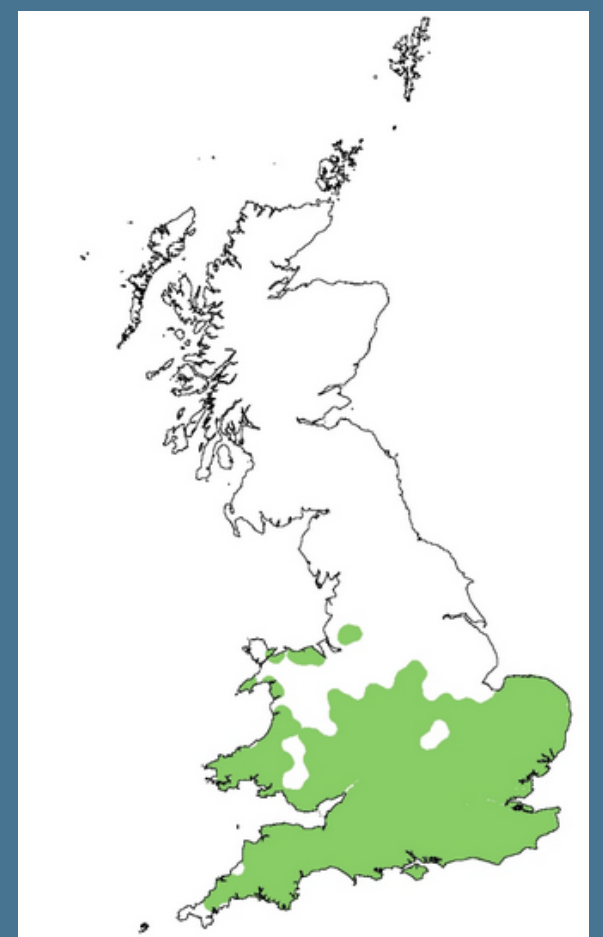
Reproduction

Maternity colonies small, almost exclusively female, with males roosting separately or in small groups. Roosts usually in buildings (particularly late 19th / early 20th century residential buildings with high gables) close to woodland, water, or pasture.

Conservation & Threats

Roosts are under-recorded. Roost occupation appears to be declining in south-east England, increasing in south-west. Genetic evidence suggests some travel across English Channel. Pesticides in agriculture have decreased prey availability. Increased summer weather fluctuations due to climate change have led to high juvenile mortality.

Range



Mammal
SOCIETY