Oxfordshire Mammal Group

Nathusius' pipistrelle

Pipistrellus nathusii

Description: A small bat (body length 46-55mm), with wingspan of 220-250mm. 6-16g. It has a post-calcarial lobe and does not have an internarial ridge. Medium to dark reddish brown. Face, ears and membranes usually very dark. Adult forearm length: 32-38mm. Tragus up to four times as long as it is broad with a distinctly blunt, rounded tip. Visual difference from other pipistrelle species is that Nathusius' pipistrelle is bigger and shaggier.



Droppings: 7-9mm long, 1.5-2mm wide. Fine texture, tapered at either end. Often found below roost access points.

Flight description:
Emerges 20-30 mins
after sunset, although
occasionally before.
Moderate hawking
speed. Fast erratic flight
at head height (to 10m)
along habitat edges.
Less manoeuvrable than

Lifespan: Normally 4-5 years, up to 11 years.

Life cycle: During summer, females form maternity colony where they give birth to a single young. Young can fly at 4 weeks and forage for themselves at 6. Males usually roost singularly. A migratory species which typically overwinters in the UK and breeds in Europe, although some populations are resident.

Roost locations: Buildings (any, although especially in villages), trees, bat boxes and rock faces. Prefer tight crevices. Hibernation roosts similar but usually solitary or in small numbers.

Habitats: Often large freshwater lakes, or near rivers, canals, lakes and waterlogged areas, as well as in woodland rides and edges.

UK conservation status: Widespread but records are sparse.

Oxfordshire: Likely seasonal migrant

Legislation:

- ♦ Habitat regulations 2010 Schedule 2
- ♦ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5

Echolocation:

Lowest frequency: 34.6 kHz Highest frequency: 79 kHz Peak intensity: 38kHz

Average call duration: 0.006 seconds

Description: Irregular, loud, wet slaps developing

into clicks at the end.

Typical echolocation sonogram (from Brooks, A. *The Bats of Britain and Europe*).



