



Species fact sheet

Eptesicus nilssonii

Northern bat

Nordfledermaus
Sérotine boréale
Serotino di Nilsson
Serotin d'aur

Characteristics

Wingspan: 24-28 cm
Weight: 8-13 g
Max. age: 21 years
Offspring/year: 1-2

Status

Protection: protected by NCHA
Red List: VU (Vulnerable)
National Priority: I (very high)
Other: Forest target species,
Target species sparse forest

Synergies: Greater mouse-eared bat, Brandt's bat, Alcahloe whiskered bat, Western barbastelle, Natterer's/cryptic bat



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Foraging habitat

Dietrich Weidmann (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Habitat use

Roosts

In summer in interspaces of roofs, façade crevices, chimneys, and tree hollows, usually above 700 m.a.s.l. Nursery roosts usually comprise 10-100 females. Regular change of roosts. Winter roosts in similar structures, also in firewood stacks, caves, tunnels, and crevices. Cold-tolerant species that also inhabits winter roosts that are not completely frost-proof.

Foraging grounds

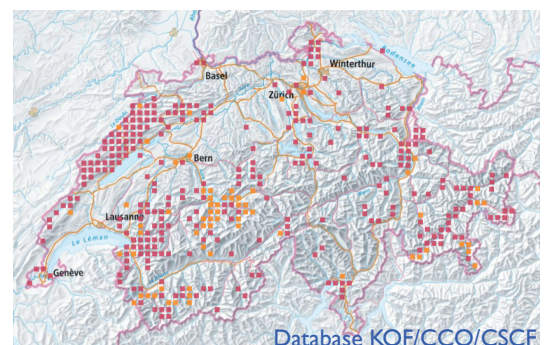
Usually forages in the open space near forests and water bodies. Often also near street lightings. Size of foraging habitat: 1-10 ha. Foraging grounds up to 30 km from the roost, depending on the season, but usually only 1-10 km.

Flight corridors

Hardly dependent on flight corridors due to its tolerance of night-time lighting and open-space flight behavior.

Distribution

Widespread at higher altitudes of the Jura, the foothills of the Alps and the Alps. However, individuals have also been found in the lowlands. Nursery roosts have so far mainly been recorded in the Jura and Engadin.



Database KOF/CCO/CSCF

Threats

- Loss of roosts due to unaccompanied building works: Renovations, refurbishments to optimize the energetic efficiency of the building envelope, closure of access points, use of toxic wood preservatives
- Habitat loss due to rising temperatures (climate change)
- Lack of food due to structural impoverishment of the landscape, intensification and insect control in agriculture and forestry
- Collisions with wind turbines
- Disturbances during hibernation

Mitigation measures

Conservation dependent. Conservation and promotion measures necessary. Monitoring of known nursery roosts, hibernacula and swarming sites, development of cantonal action plans and closing of knowledge gaps. Involvement of the [Regional Coordination Center for Bat Conservation](#) mandatory for all measures.

Roosts

Protection of all nursery roosts (inclusion in regional planning acts). Limitation of structural changes to the roost to an absolute minimum, even outside the nursing season. Inclusion of roost surroundings in conservation concepts, in particular regarding the conservation of suitable foraging grounds. Protection of known winter roosts.

Foraging grounds

Conservation and promotion of extensively used, mosaic-like landscapes, e.g., with meadows, rough pastures, wildflower strips, wetlands or sparse forests. Promotion of larger insects such as June bugs and beetles. Avoidance of insecticide use in agriculture and forestry. Careful site selection and implementation of shutdown algorithms for wind turbines in the species' habitats.

Flight corridors

No special measures necessary.



Literature

- Bohnenstengel et al. (2014). [Rote Liste Fledermäuse, Stand 2011](#). Umwelt-Vollzug 1412.
- Dietz et al. (2018). [Bats of Britain and Europe](#). Bloomsbury Academic, London.
- Krättli et al. (2012). [Konzept Artenförderung Fledermäuse 2013-2020](#). Schweizerische Koordinationsstelle für Fledermausschutz.
- Rodrigues et al. (2014). [Guidelines for consideration of bats in wind farm projects](#). UNEP/EUROBATS, Bonn.

Links

- fledermausschutz.ch
- institutions.ville-geneve.ch/fr/cco/
- pipistrelliticino.ch