



Species fact sheet

Eptesicus serotinus

Serotine bat

Sérotine commune
Breitflügelfledermaus
Serotino comune
Serotin da l'ala lada

Characteristics

Wingspan: 31-38 cm
Weight: 22-35 g
Max. age: 24 years
Offspring/year: 1

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, Grey long-eared bat, Greater horseshoe bat, Parti-colored bat



Roost building

Habitat use

Roosts

Uses various cavities in buildings in summer, such as attics, shutter boxes or crevices in roof interspaces and behind wall cladding. Rock crevices can also be colonized. Nursery roosts usually count 10-50, sometimes more than 100 females. Little is known about the winter roosts, but there is evidence from the same types of roosts as in summer, as well as from caves and tunnels. Summer and winter roosts are usually close to each other.

Foraging grounds

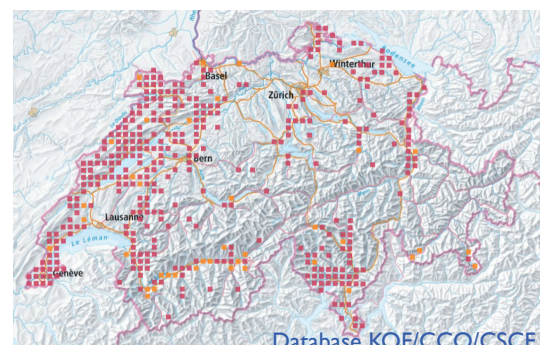
Prefers diverse, mosaic-like landscapes with extensive meadows, pastures, orchards, hedges and loose stands of trees. However, it also forages above the treetops of extensive forests, in parks, above near-natural gardens and on large individual trees. Foraging grounds are usually less than 5 km away from the roost, but sometimes more than 10 km.

Flight corridors

Usually flies directly from the roost in the settlement area to the foraging ground and appears to be little sensitive to light. However, it can also follow guiding structures such as hedges or tree rows.

Distribution

Highest densities of nursery roosts in the warm regions of Ticino, the Rhine Valley, the Jura, and Lake Constance area, but also evidence of reproduction from other regions. Large gaps in the Central Plains and the foothills of the Alps. Most records from Switzerland located below 1000 m above sea level.



Threats

- Loss of roosts due to unaccompanied building works: Renovations, energetic optimization of the building envelope, closure of access points, conversions, use of toxic wood preservatives
- Disturbances during hibernation
- Lack of food due to structural impoverishment of the landscape, overintensification and insect control in agriculture and forestry

Mitigation measures

Conservation dependent. Protection and promotion measures necessary. Monitoring of known nursery roosts, hibernacula and swarming roosts, development of cantonal action plans and closing of knowledge gaps at roost level. Involvement of the Regional Center for Bat Conservation is 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, particularly regarding connectivity and conservation of suitable foraging grounds. Protection of known winter roosts.

Foraging grounds

Conservation and promotion of extensively used, mosaic-like landscapes, e.g., with orchards, rough pastures, wildflower strips, sparse forests, etc. Promotion of the occurrence of large insects such as dung beetles, May and June beetles, mole crickets, bugs, etc. Avoidance of insecticide use in agriculture and forestry.

Flight corridors

Reduction of light pollution. Synergies with other target species to establish an ecological infrastructure through the settlement area (especially dark corridors).



Cockchafer: preferred prey of the Serotine bat



Structurally diverse foraging habitat

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.
- Mitchell-Jones et al. (2017). [Protecting and managing underground sites for bats, 5th edition](#). UNEP/EUROBATS, Bonn.

Links

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