



Species fact sheet

Myotis brandtii

Brandt's bat

Brandtfledermaus
Murin de Brandt
Vespertilio di Brandt
Vespertil da Brandt

Characteristics

Wingspan: 19-24 cm
Weight: 4.5-8 g
Max. age: 42 years
Offspring/year: mostly 1

Status

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

Synergies: [Bechstein's bat](#), [Natterer's/cryptic bat](#), [Daubenton's bat](#), [Whiskered bat](#), [Soprano pipistrelle](#)



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Hibernating Brandt's bats

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Habitat use

Roosts

Roosts mainly in tree hollows, but also behind protruding bark. Also, behind wall boarding, in roof interspaces and attics of buildings close to the forest. Hibernates mainly in underground caves and tunnels.

Foraging grounds

Strongly forest- and water-bound species. Prefers to forage in alluvial forests, but also in other types of forest, as well as in wetlands and moors. Size of foraging areas: 1-10 ha. Foraging grounds up to 10 km away from the roost.

Flight corridors

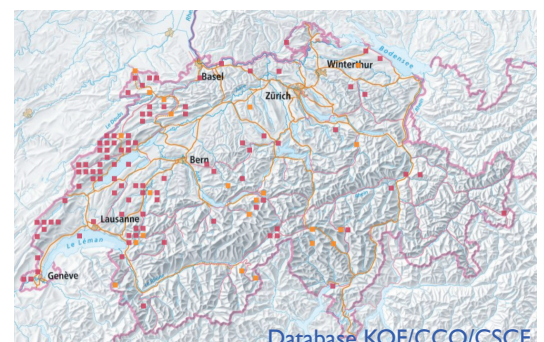
Strongly structure-bound species, especially in areas with increased light pollution. Flies on transit flights mostly along forest edges, hedges, watercourses, or dark corridors in settlements.

Distances between summer and winter roosts are usually less than 40 km.

Distribution

Very patchy distribution in Switzerland, only three known nursery roosts.

Most records from swarming sites. Mainly at higher altitudes in the Jura and the foothills of the Alps. Abundance and distribution might be underestimated due to strongly forest-bound lifestyle.



Database KOF/CCO/CSCF

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
- Loss of roosts due to logging of cavity trees, systematic removal of beetle wood, excessive forest regeneration and short rotation periods in silviculture
- Loss of energy due to disturbance caused by cave tourism during hibernation
- Habitat loss/fragmentation due to light and noise pollution (roosts, foraging habitats, flight corridors)
- Loss of foraging habitat in the forest: sharp decline in hall-like forests due to changes in growth conditions (compacted soils, hot dry summers, increased Nitrogen concentration) and forestry practices, disappearance of water bodies in the forest (drainage, but also due to climate change)

Mitigation measures

Conditionally conservation dependent. Conservation measures indicated. Monitoring of known nursery roosts, hibernacula and swarming sites, development of cantonal action plans and closure of knowledge gaps. Involvement of the [Regional Coordination Center for Bat Conservation](#) mandatory for all measures on roost buildings, recommended for measures in other habitats.

Roosts

Strengthen the protection of known roosts in buildings (inclusion in regional planning acts). Inclusion of the wider roost surroundings, especially with regard to light pollution. Avoidance of façade lighting on roost buildings in the summer months. Protection of known winter roosts in caves by restriction of access. Leaving of old trees and dead wood in the forest, especially woodpecker and beetle trees. Increase of the rotation time and protection the thickest trees.

Foraging grounds

Propagation of alluvial forests, small water bodies in the forest and the waterlogging of forest soils. Propagation of hedges and copses near water bodies.

Flight corridors

Recording, protection and inclusion in regional planning acts, as well as consistent protection of nocturnal flight corridors between roosts in buildings and foraging grounds. Revision and, where necessary, optimization of the lighting regime and structural corridors close to roosts. Synergies with other target species to establish an ecological infrastructure through the settlement area (especially dark corridors) Improvement of the structural landscape connectivity by means of hedges, copses and alleys.



Literature

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Links

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