Swiss Coordination Center for Bat Conservation

Species fact sheet

Nyctalus lasiopterus

Greater noctule
Riesenabendsegler
Grande noctule
Nottola gigante
Sgolanotg gigant

Characteristics

Wingspan:	41-46 cm
Weight:	35-70 g
Max. age:	unknown
Offspring/year:	1-2

Status

Protection:	protected by NCHA
Red List:	DD (Data Deficient)
National Priority	n (none)
Other:	-

Synergies: Leisler's bat, Common noctule, Particolored bat, Nathusius's pipistrelle

Roost: Tree cavity

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Habitat use

Roosts

Inhabits mainly tree cavities in old deciduous or mixed forests, but also in montane coniferous forests. Single individuals sometimes in bat boxes, attics, or rock crevices in large caves. Maternity roosts usually consist of 2-10 individuals, but also several dozens possible. Sometimes in mixed colonies with other species.

Foraging grounds

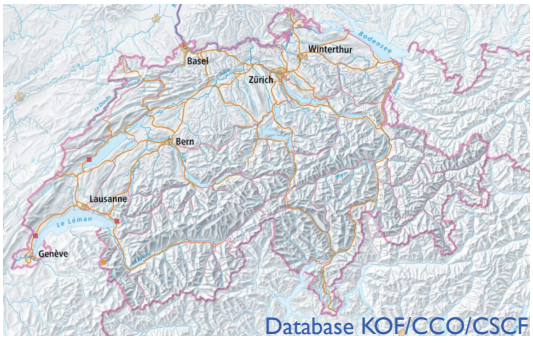
Forages in straight, fast flight in the open sky, sometimes several hundred m above ground. Preys on large insects (moths, beetles, dragonflies), but especially during migration period also small passerine birds. Hardly any darta on spatial behavior available, but lactating females were found up to 40 km from their roost.

Flight corridors

Thanks to its fast locomotion in open space hardly dependent on flight corridors sensu stricto. As it is a migratory species, supraregional migration corridors important. Summer and winter roosts may be more than 3000 km apart.

Distribution

Little knowledge on its European distribution. The few records from Switzerland all concerned single individuals on spring/fall migration. Since 2000, only two captures on Col de Jaman (VD) and three acoustic detections (FR, SG and VD).



Database KOF/CCO/CSCF

Threats

- Loss of habitats due to logging of hollow trees, excessive forest regeneration and short rotation periods in silviculture
- Collisions with wind turbines
- In certain roosting areas: strong resource competition (tree cavities) with introduced rose-ringed parakeets

Mitigation measures

Because of the species' scarcity in Switzerland, no specific measures indicated. From general measures as listed below, also the greater noctule may profit.

Roosts

Protection and propagation of cave trees and ensurance of their accessibility by means of forestry interventions (clearing).

Foraging grounds

Reduction of pesticide use near water bodies. Restoration of the riparian zones of larger standing and slow-flowing waters. Consideration of the species in the planning and implementation of wind energy projects.

Flight corridors

Protection of migration corridors at supra-regional (international) level. Consideration of these corridors in wind energy projects.

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