Swiss Coordination Center for Bat Conservation

Species fact sheet

Pipistrellus nathusii

Nathusius's pipistrelle
Rauhautfledermaus
Pipistrelle de Nathusius
Pipistrello di Nathusius
Pipistrel da Nathusius

Characteristics

Wingspan:	22-25 cm
Weight:	4-10 g
Max. age:	14 years
Offspring/year:	mostly 1

Status

Protection:	protected by NCHA
Red List:	LC (Least Concern)
National Priority	n (none)
Other:	-

Synergies: Whiskered bat, Kuhl's pipistrelle, Common pipistrelle, Soprano pipistrelle

Foraging habitat: Tree-lined water course

Habitat use

Roosts

In summer and winter, inhabits a variety of roosts in buildings and trees: façade crevices, roof interspaces, shutter cases, expansion joints of bridges, tree hollows, bat boxes, rock crevices and even firewood piles. Females in summer in roosts of 20 to over 100 individuals, males usually solitary.

Foraging grounds

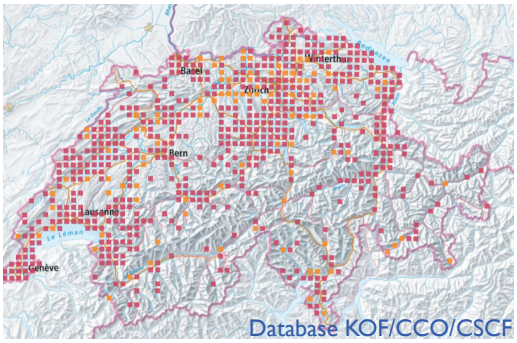
Foragers of semi-open and open spaces. Prefer to forage over tree-lined standing or slow-flowing water, but also along hedges, forest edges, forest clearings and forest roads. Size of foraging areas: 1-10 ha.

Flight corridors

Seasonal migrations over distances of up to over 2200 km. Foraging grounds up to 15 km from the roost. Only moderatly sensitive to light. Flight corridors important at national/international level (comparable to wildlife corridors), but of secondary importance at local level.

Distribution

Currently appears to be expanding its European range towards the southwest. Found throughout Switzerland. In summer mainly males, in forests at higher altitudes, in winter also females and more often in the lowlands. So far, only one nursery roost known in Switzerland (TG), plus two records of lactating females (NE and GE).



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 habitat due to removal of old deciduous trees in forests, parks and gardens as well as too short a rotation period and excessive regeneration in forests
- Collisions with wind turbines
- Decline in food supply due to widespread mosquito control measures on bodies of water (Bti toxin) and often unnecessary use of pesticides in agriculture and private households

Mitigation measures

Due to the increasing distribution of the species, acutely no specific measures necessary that go beyond the Nature and Cultural Heritage Conservation Act. However, general measures that also benefit other (bat) species are well suited.

Roosts

Consultation of the Regional Coordination Center for Bat Conservation when making structural changes to known roosts. Propagation of old wood and cave trees in forests, gardens and parks.

Foraging grounds

Propagation of riparian woodland along lakes, rivers and streams. Reduction of the use of pesticides in bodies of water (e.g. Bti toxin), in private households and agriculture

Flight corridors

Protection of migration corridors at national/international level. Consideration of these corridors in wind energy projects. Synergies with other species to establish an ecological infrastructure through the settlement area (e.g. green spaces and dark corridors).

Winter roost: Firewood piles next to a building

Roost: Bat boxes

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.

Links

fledermausschutz.ch

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

pipistrelliticino.ch

The Swiss Coordination Center for Bat Conservation is supported by the Federal Office of the Environment