Swiss Coordination Center for Bat Conservation

Species fact sheet

Plecotus auritus

Brown long-eared bat
Braunes Langohr
Oreillard brun
Orecchione comune
Ureglia gronda brina

Characteristics

Wingspan:	24-29 cm
Weight:	6-12 g
Max. age:	>30 years
Offspring/year:	1

Status

Protection:	protected by NCHA
Red List:	VU (Vulnerable)
National Priority	1 (very high)
Other:	Forest target species, Target species sparse forest

Synergies: Greater mouse-eared bat, Grey long-eared bat, Alpine long-eared bat, Greater horseshoe bat, Lesser horseshoe bat, Whiskered bat

Roost in an attic

Habitat use

Roosts

Uses attics and other sections of buildings during the day in summer, where the females raise their young in colonies of 10-30, but sometimes over 50 individuals. Males can stay in the same roosts. In addition to buildings, tree hollows and bat boxes are also inhabited. Non-reproductive animals can also be found all year round in underground roosts such as rock caves. Hibernation mainly in caves and tunnels.

Foraging grounds

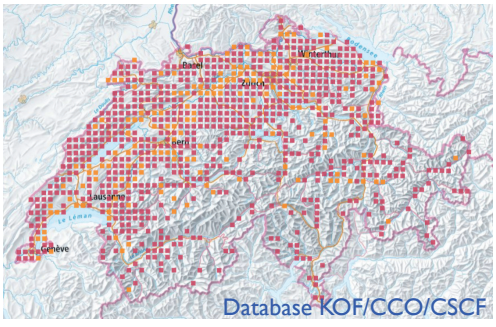
Forages mainly near trees or even inside the crown of large trees - for example in forests, parks or orchards. Prey especially moths, but also beetles and gnats. Foraging grounds are usually close to the roost, but can also be up to 8 km away. Size of foraging grounds: 1-10 ha.

Flight corridors

Strongly structure-bound species, especially in areas with increased light pollution. Flies on transit flights mostly along forest edges, hedges, bodies of water or dark corridors in settlement areas. Distances between summer and winter roosts rarely exceed 10 km.

Distribution

Almost ubiquitous at lower altitudes in Switzerland, but trends are clearly negative, especially on the Central Plateau. Nursery roosts mostly below 1000 m. Occurrence strongly dependent on forests and structurally rich, cultivated landscapes.



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 the logging of old trees in parks and forests
- Loss of energy due to disturbance caused by cave tourism during hibernation
- Habitat loss/fragmentation due to light pollution (roosts, flight corridors) in urban areas, clearing of the
- landscape and noise pollution and infrastructure construction in foraging grounds.

Mitigation measures

Strongly conservation dependent. Conservation and propagation measures necessary. Monitoring of known nursery roosts, winter roosts and swarming sites, development of cantonal action plans and closing of local knowledge gaps, particularly with regard to flight corridors and foraging grounds. Continuation and expansion of the National Long-Eared Bat Conservation and Monitoring Program. Involvement of the Regional Coordination Center for Bat Conservation is mandatory for all measures.

Roosts

Strengthening of the protection of existing nursery roosts (inclusion in regional planning acts). Continuation and expansion of roost management by volunteers. Inclusion of the wider roost surroundings, especially with regard to light pollution, in roost protection concepts. Avoidance of façade lighting on roost buildings in the summer months. Promotion of old trees and standing dead wood in forests, parks, and gardens. Protection of known winter roosts in caves by restriction of access during the winter months.

Foraging grounds

Protection and promotion of orchards, copses and large single trees. Avoidance of light pollution in potential foraging habitats. Avoidance of pesticide use in forestry and fruit production.

Flight corridors

Recording, inclusion in regional planning and consistent protection of nocturnal flight corridors between roosts and foraging habitats. Revision and, where necessary, optimization of the lighting regime and connectivity near roosts. Synergies with other target species to establish an ecological infrastructure through the settlement area (especially dark corridors).

Flight corridors

Foraging habitat: Fruit tree with large, expansive crown

Literature

Bohnenstengel et al. (2014). Rote Liste Fledermäuse, Stand 2011. Umwelt-Vollzug 1412.

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Krättli et al. (2012). Konzept Artenförderung Fledermäuse 2013-2020. Schweizerische Koordinationsstelle für Fledermausschutz.

Voigt et al. (2019). Guidelines for consideration of bats in lighting projects. UNEP/EUROBATS, Bonn.

Links

fledermausschutz.ch

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

pipistrelliticino.ch

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