



## Species fact sheet

### *Plecotus austriacus*

#### Grey long-eared bat

Graues Langohr  
Orecchione meridionale  
Oreillard gris  
Ureglia gronda grischa

#### Characteristics

Wingspan: 25-30 cm  
Weight: 6-10 g  
Max. age: >25 years  
Offspring/year: 1

#### Status

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

**Synergies:** Greater mouse-eared bat, Brown long-eared bat, Alpine long-eared bat, Greater horseshoe bat, Lesser horseshoe bat, Serotine bat



### Habitat use

#### Roosts

Strict building dweller, often year-round. Uses attics and other parts of buildings in summer, in which the females raise their young in colonies of less than 20, but in rare cases over 60 individuals. Males can stay in the same roosts. No evidence from tree or underground roosts. In winter, mainly in wall crevices and cellars, but also in the same roosts as in summer.

#### Foraging grounds

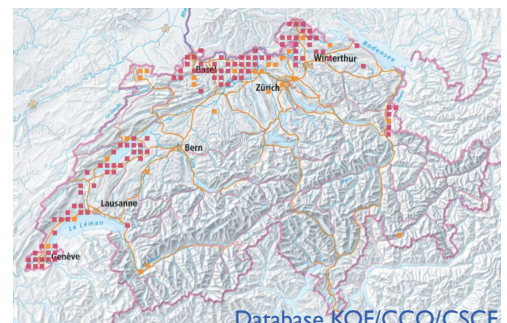
Foraging either over biodiverse, extensively used open land just above the vegetation, over treetops or along vertical structures. Size of foraging areas: 10-100 ha. The prey consists mainly of moths, but seasonally also of flying beetles up to the size of cockchafers. Foraging grounds usually less than 5 km from the roost.

#### Flight corridors

Strongly structure-bound species, especially in areas with light pollution. Flies on transit flights mostly along forest edges, hedges, water courses or dark corridors in settlements. Distances between summer and winter roosts are usually very short (0 to a few km).

### Distribution

In Switzerland, almost only along the Jura Arc and its foothills. The species disappeared from the Central Plateau decades ago. Depends on the presence of extensive flower meadows in warm locations with good structural connectivity and suitable roosting sites.



## 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 winter roosts in damp cellars (renovations and closure of entrances)
- Habitat loss/fragmentation due to light pollution (roosts, flight corridors) in urban areas, clearing of the landscape, intensification and insect control (cockchafer) in agriculture. If the current trend is not halted, the grey long-eared bat faces extinction in Switzerland in the coming decades.

## Mitigation measures

Highly conservation dependent. Conservation and propagation measures necessary. Development of cantonal action plans and closing of knowledge gaps regarding habitat use. 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

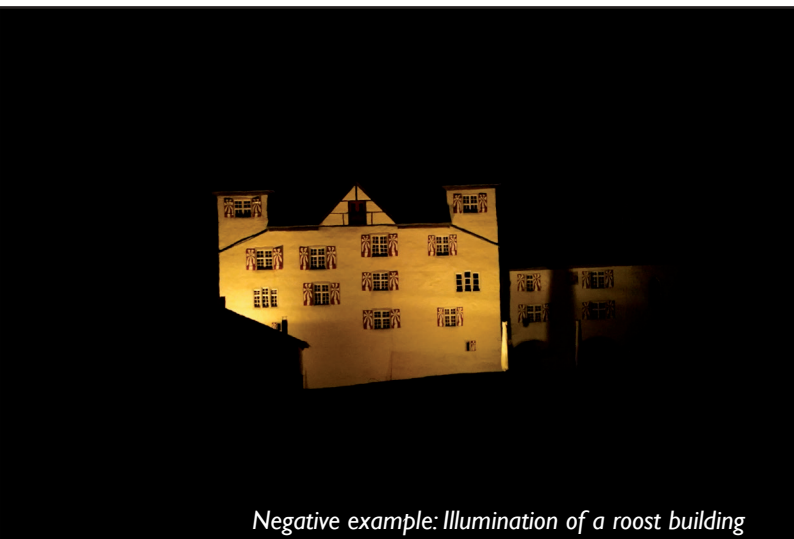
Strengthening of the protection of existing nursery roosts (inclusion in regional planning acts). Clarification of the status of yet undefined roosts. Inclusion of the wider roost surroundings in conservation planning, particularly with regard to light pollution, connectivity and preservation of suitable foraging habitats. Year-round avoidance of façade lighting on roost buildings. Protection of known winter roosts (bridge and wall crevices, damp cellars) and their accessibility.

### Foraging grounds

Conservation and propagation of extensively used agricultural areas with hedges, orchards, rough pastures, and wildflower strips. Propagation of flower and insect diversity. Avoidance of light pollution in potential foraging habitats and insecticide use in agriculture.

### 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 lighting regime and connectivity. Synergies with other target species to establish an ecological infrastructure through the settlement area (especially dark corridors).



*Negative example: Illumination of a roost building*



*Foraging habitat: meadow rich in flower species*

## 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.
- Voigt et al. (2019). [Guidelines for consideration of bats in lighting projects](#). UNEP/EURO-BATS, Bonn.

## Links

- [fledermausschutz.ch](http://fledermausschutz.ch)
- [institutions.ville-geneve.ch/fr/cco/pipistrelliticino.ch](http://institutions.ville-geneve.ch/fr/cco/pipistrelliticino.ch)