



Species fact sheet

Plecotus macrobullaris

Alpine long-eared bat
Alpenlangohr
Oreillard alpin
Orecchione alpino
Ureglia gronda alpina

Characteristics
Wingspan: 24-30 cm
Weight: 6-10 g
Max. age: unknown
Offspring/year: 1

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

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



Roost in a Building

Habitat use

Roosts

Known nursery roosts in Switzerland are exclusively in buildings, e.g., in attics and towers of churches or under stone roofs. Nursery roosts in crevices and screes are known from the Pyrenees, for example, and are also conceivable here. Males are rarely found in the nursery roosts, even though they inhabit the same roost types. Hibernates mainly in caves, tunnels, crevices, and scree.

Foraging grounds

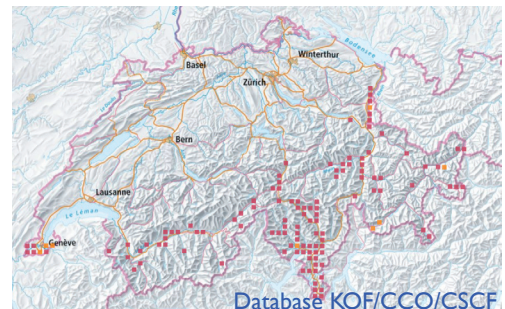
Forages mainly near trees or even inside the crown of large trees – for example in sparse forests, floodplains, or over wooded pastures. Also, over extensive meadows and even farmland. In addition, over alpine meadows and pastures above the tree line (according to observations from abroad near the border). Prey primarily moths. Foraging grounds are usually less than 1 km away from the roost, but sometimes more than 6 km. Size of foraging areas: 1-10 ha.

Flight corridors

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

Distribution

In Switzerland, only in the warm regions of the Alps and Pre-Alps, especially on steep slopes.



Database KOF/CCO/CSCF

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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
- Energy loss due to disturbance caused by cave tourism during hibernation
- Habitat loss/fragmentation: light pollution (roosts, flight corridors) in urban areas, structural clearing of the landscape, infrastructure construction (roads, railroad lines)
- Decline in food supply in agricultural areas due to decreasing insect biomass

Mitigation measures

Protection and propagation measures necessary. Strongly conservation dependent. Continuation and expansion of the [National Long-eared Bat Conservation and Monitoring Program](#). Involvement of the Regional Coordination Center for Bat Conservation mandatory for all measures.

Roosts

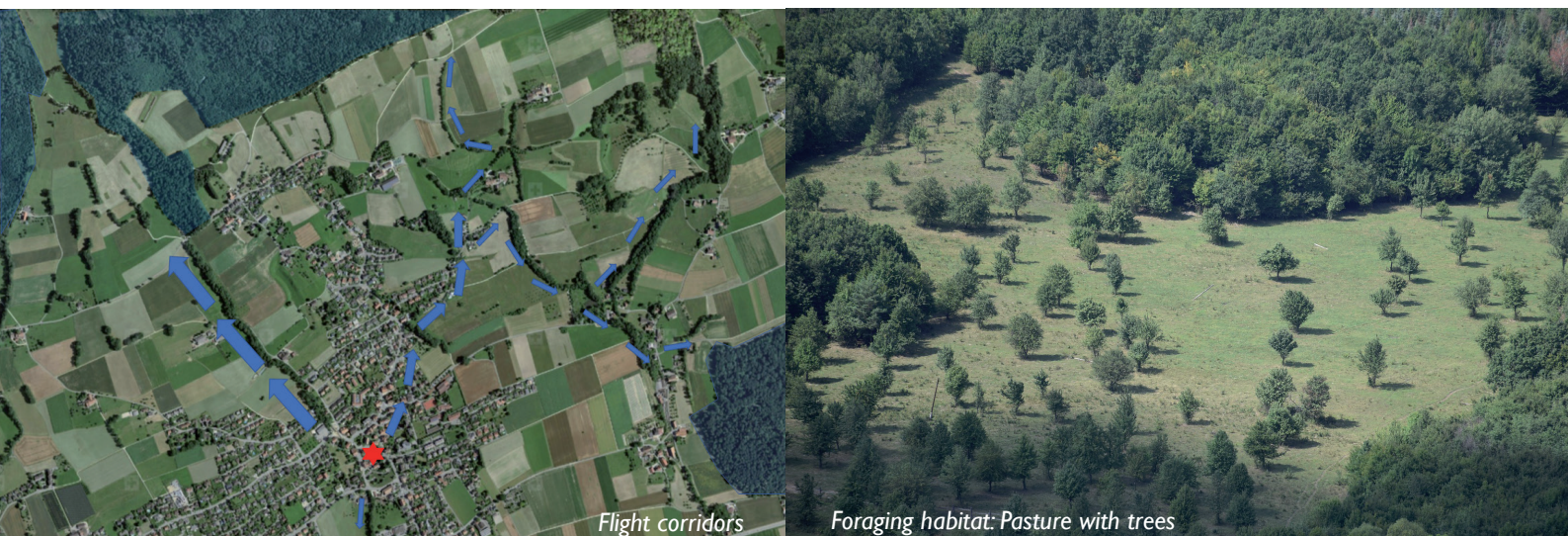
Strengthening of the protection of existing nursery roosts (inclusion in regional planning acts). Continuation and expansion of roost supervision by volunteers. Inclusion of the wider roost surroundings in conservation concepts, especially with regard to light pollution. Avoidance of façade lighting on roost buildings in the summer months. Protection of known winter roosts in caves by restriction of access during the winter months.

Foraging grounds

Promotion of light forests. Avoidance of light pollution in potential foraging habitats. Avoidance of pesticide use in forestry and 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 the lighting regime and connectivity near roosts. Synergies with other target species to establish an ecological infrastructure through the settlement area (especially dark corridors).



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