



Brandt's bat

Myotis brandtii

Snapshot: scarce in UK with very few records in Suffolk; very similar to Whiskered bat; smallest *Myotis* species; found in woodland.



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Brandt's bat

Conservation

Considered Data Deficient England

Protected under UK and European law

Relevant legislation:

Bonn Convention

Bern Convention

Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

s41 Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 list of Priority species

How to identify a Brandt's bat

- **Echolocation:** peaks at 45 kHz. Sounds like dry clicks.
- **Size:** Small, head & body length 38 - 50 mm
- **Flight pattern:** rapid, skilful flight, flying at medium height and often within woodland.
- **Feeding:** occasionally pick prey off foliage and often feed near water.
- **Distinctive features**
Shaggy fur
- **Colour:** Dark grey or brown fur above, golden tips on back, greyish underneath. Face and base of ears often pinkish.

Habitat and requirements

- Woodland.
- Regularly found in buildings, particularly older buildings with stone walls and slate roofs.
- **Roost sites:** hollow trees.
- **Hibernation sites:** caves and tunnels in small numbers. It is uncertain where the majority of the population hibernate. Lodge in tight crevices, may be found in roosts with other species.

Threats

- Loss of feeding habitats e.g. decline of woodlands.
- Loss of hollow trees for roosting.
- Toxic chemical in timber treatments in domestic roof spaces causing mortality.
- Disturbance and vandalism of hibernation sites in caves and tunnels.

Myotis Bat Species

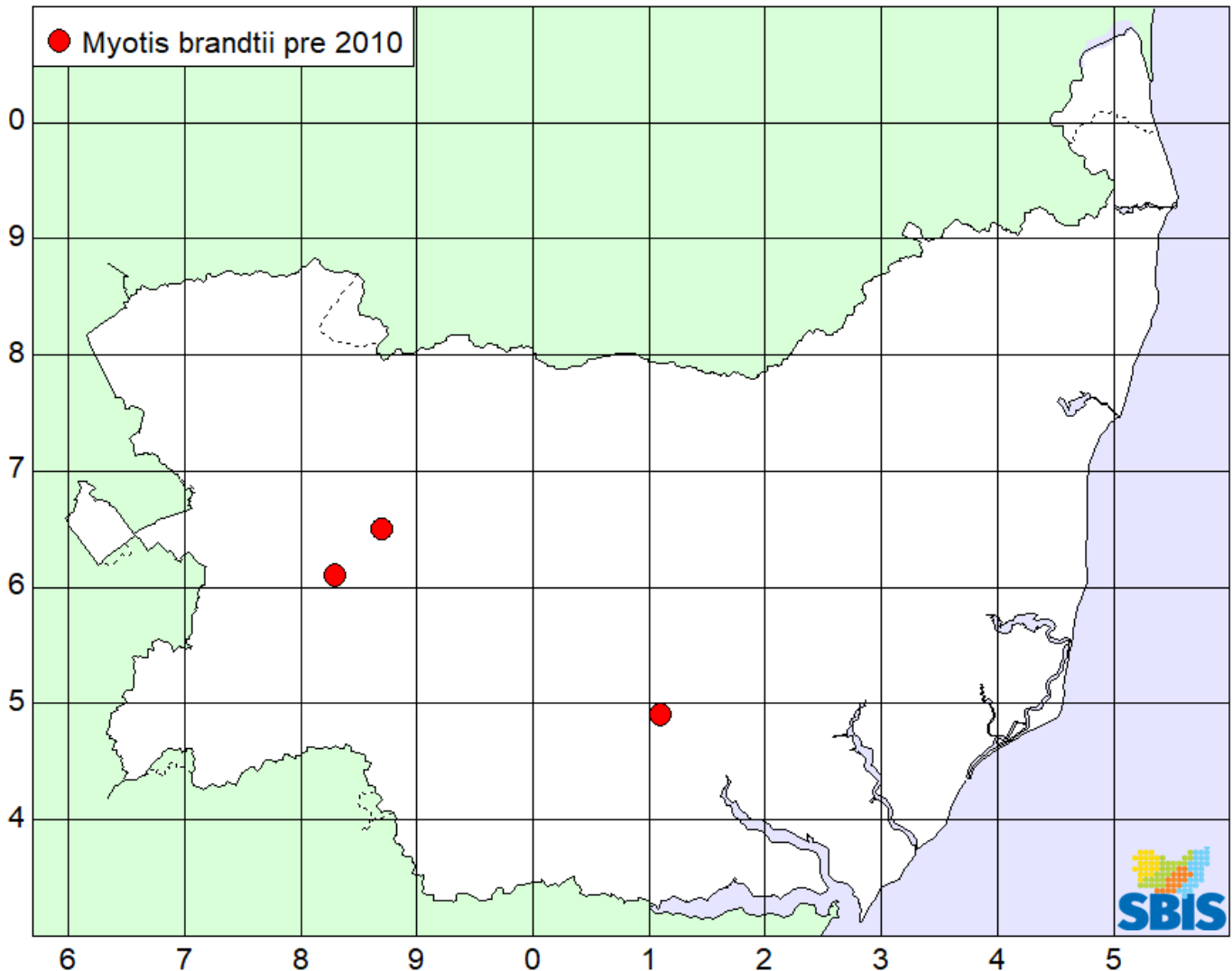
The *Myotis* group of bats consist of Natterer's, Daubenton's, Whiskered and Brandt's bats. While these species can be separated in the hand, their calls cannot currently be easily separated using detectors and software. Therefore, most detector records are recorded simply as 'Myotis' unless there are other field signs i.e. Daubenton's feeding over water or a good visual sighting in flight of Natterer's in suitable habitat.

Brandt's bats in Suffolk

The Brandt's bat was not distinguished from the Whiskered bat in Europe until 1971. It was recorded in Suffolk in the same year. The smallest of our *Myotis* species, Brandt's bats are scarce nationally with very few records for East Anglia. The only

Suffolk records have been from animals in hibernation.

The distribution map (SBIS, dated May 2020) shows current records in red. There have been no records since 2000.



Further information

- **Bat Conservation Trust: Fact sheet, photos and listen to Brandt's bat echolocation**
<https://www.bats.org.uk/about-bats/what-are-bats/uk-bats>
- **The Wildlife Trusts Fact Sheet**
<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/mammals/brandts-bat>
- **Distribution Atlas for Bats in Suffolk 1983-2016**, published by Suffolk Bat Group, Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service and Suffolk Wildlife Trust 2017. Available to download at <https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/suffolkbatgroup> or <https://www.suffolkbis.org.uk/bats>
- **Suffolk Bat Group** <https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/suffolkbatgroup>
- **National Bat Helpline:** 0345 1300 228