



Daubenton's bat

Myotis daubentonii

Snapshot: distinctive flight very close to water surface; can live over 20 years; may hibernate amongst rocks and scree on the floor of caves and tunnels.



Daubenton's bat hibernating. Note the large feet used for trawling for insects when feeding over still water © Sue Hooton



Lakes and other water bodies contain prey such as aquatic insects © Arthur Rivett

How to identify a Daubenton's bat

- **Echolocation:** peaks at 45 to 50 kHz. Sounds like a machinegun with regular clicks for bursts of 5-10 seconds.
- **Size:** Medium, head & body length 45 - 55 mm
- **Flight pattern:** Steady flight, often flying very close to water surface.
- **Feeding:** take insects from close to the water and may take prey directly from the water surface using feet or tail membrane.
- **Colour:** Fur red brown, pale underneath. Pinkish face, bare around eyes.

Habitat and requirements

- Woodland and water bodies.
- **Roost sites:** will use bat boxes, temporary night roosts in trees or tunnels close to feeding sites. May be found roosting with other species. Only occasionally found in buildings.
- **Hibernation sites:** caves, mines and other underground sites. Often lodges into tight crevices and may be among rocks on cave and tunnels floors.

Conservation

Considered Least Concern 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

Myotis Bat Species

The Myotis group of bats consist of Natterer's, Daubenton's, Whiskered and Brandt's bats. Their calls cannot be easily separated, so most detector records are recorded as 'Myotis' unless there are other distinguishing field signs.

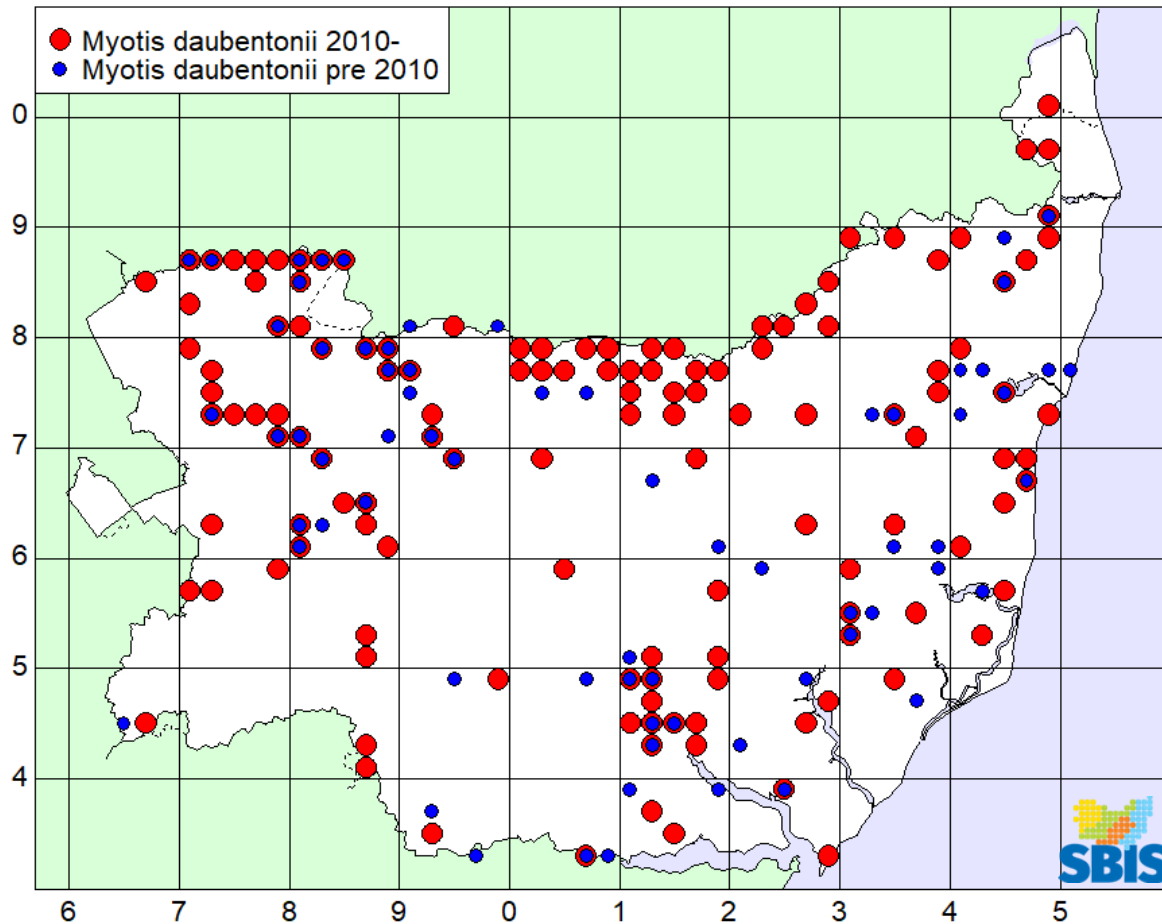
Daubenton's bats in Suffolk

Records for Suffolk suggest the Daubenton's bat has a wide distribution, but is far from common in the county. Pre-2000 the vast majority of records relate to animals found in hibernation. To date, only one regular nursery roost has been recorded in the county which at one time held over 400 animals, making it one of the largest breeding colonies in the UK.

found in all the regular hibernacula with some sites holding several hundred animals. Counts at the larger sites over recent years indicate a relatively stable population. Since 2012 a total of 42 additional locations have been recorded and its presence added to four more 10km squares.

The distribution map (SBIS, dated May 2020) shows current records from 2010 to date (red) and the pre 2010 records (blue).

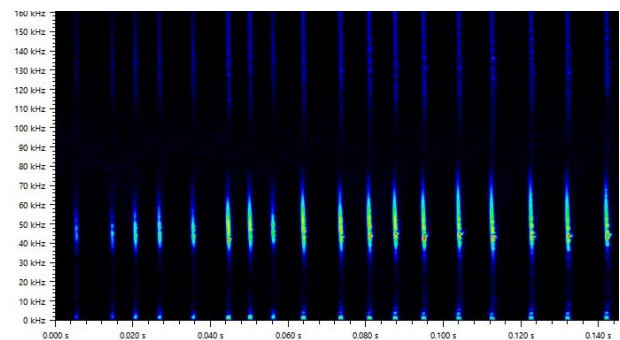
However, this is the most abundant species to be



Further information

- **Bat Conservation Trust: Fact sheet, photos and listen to Daubenton's 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/daubentons-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



Daubenton's bat echolocation call (sonogram)