



Whiskered bat

Myotis mystacinus



Snapshot: scarce in UK with very few records in Suffolk, very similar to Brandt's bat; emerge within 30 minutes of sunset; uses regular routes along woodland edges and hedgerows.



Whiskered bat © Hugh Clark / Bat Conservation Trust

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.

How to identify a Whiskered

- **Echolocation:** peaks at 45kHz. Sounds like dry clicks (similar to Daubenton's but not as regular and often slower); sometimes mistaken for pipistrelles, but frequency range much wider.
- **Size:** Small, head & body length 35mm – 48mm
- **Flight pattern:** Fast, fluttering level flight to 20m, occasional swoops. Frequently fly regular route by hedge or woodland edge.
- **Distinctive features**
 - Shaggy fur
- Largest of the three My
- **Colour:** Fur dark grey or brown, golden tips on back, greyish underneath.

Habitat and requirements

- Coniferous, mixed and broadleaved woodland, grassland, scrub, woodland edges, hedgerows.
- **Roost sites:** Crevice dweller in all types of houses, particularly older buildings with stone walls and slate roofs. Found under hanging tiles, above soffits, in cavity walls and under ridge tiles. Churches, trees, will use bat boxes. May roost with other species.
- **Hibernation sites:** Caves and tunnels in small numbers. Uncertain where the majority hibernate.

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

Whiskered bats in Suffolk

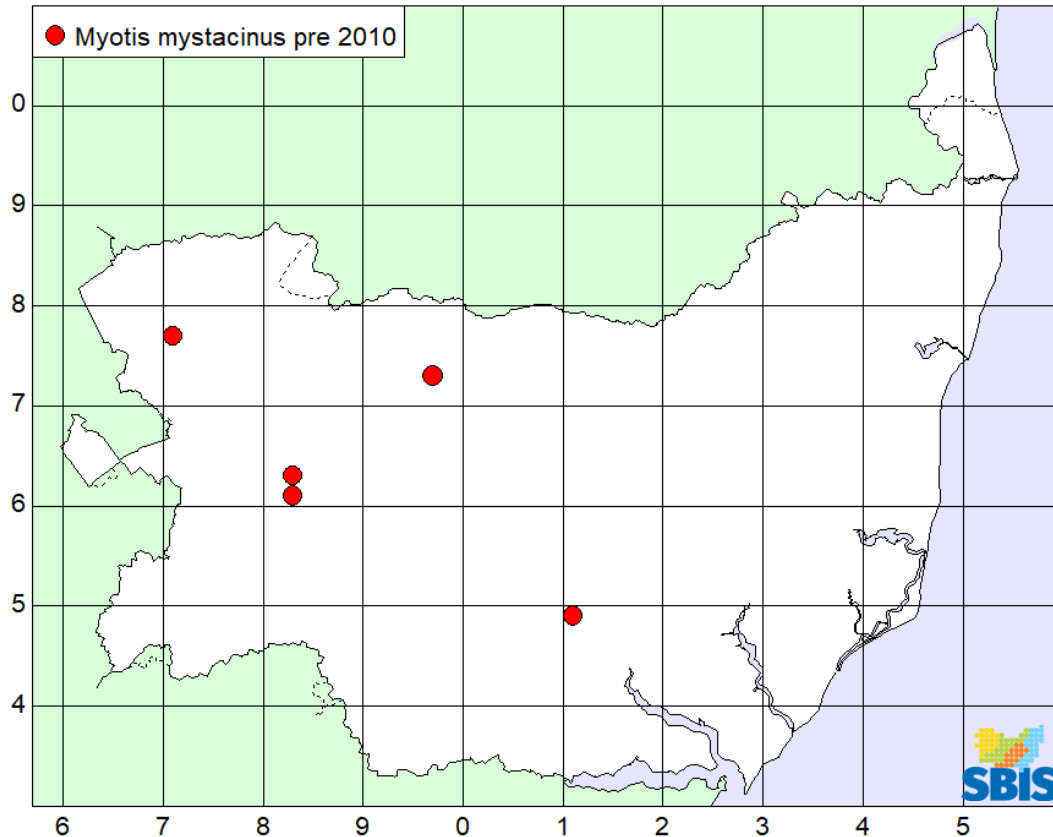
The smallest of our *Myotis* species, both Whiskered and Brandt's are scarce nationally with very few records for East Anglia.

Records before 1971 referring to 'Whiskered' may relate to either species. All records, with one exception, relate to single animals discovered in hibernation sites. In January 2000, a Whiskered bat was found clinging to a wall of Stanton Primary

School. After being taken into care it was released back into the area.

From the scattered locations of the records it would be reasonable to assume that a few small colonies are yet to be discovered. However, none have been added in the past five years.

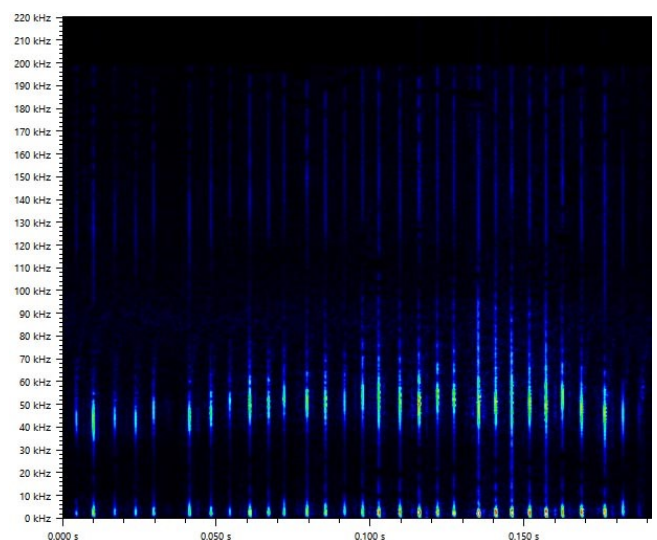
The distribution map (SBIS, dated May 2020) shows the current records in red.



Further information

- **Bat Conservation Trust: Fact sheet, photos and listen to Whiskered 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/whiskered-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



Whiskered bat echolocation call (sonogram)