



Natterer's bat

Myotis nattereri

Snapshot: pinkish limbs gave rise to old name of 'red-armed bat'; highly manoeuvrable at slow speed; fly low usually at less than 5 m; may hibernate on their heads in small crevices.



Natterer's bat hibernating © Arthur Rivett

How to identify a Natterer's bat

- **Echolocation:** Very quiet.— peak at 50kHz. Irregular rapid clicks, sounds like cellophane being crumpled.
- **Size:** Medium, head & body length 40mm - 50mm
- **Flight pattern:** Slow to medium flight, usually amongst trees, sometimes over water, great manoeuvrability. Normally less than 5 m height, occasionally 15 m in tree canopy.
- **Feeding:** Prey, such as flightless or day-flying insects, taken from foliage; may use a feeding perch for larger prey.
- **Distinctive features**
Long, narrow ears slightly curved back at tip. Fringe of very stiff bristles along trailing edge of broad tail membrane.
- **Colour:** Fur light buff brown on back, white underneath. Bare pink face.

Habitat and requirements

- Woodland.
- **Roost sites:** in crevices in old stone buildings with large timber beams e.g. churches or barns; under bridges; occasionally in roof space of houses; leave roosts approximately one hour after sunset.
- **Hibernation sites:** cool entrances to caves, mines, underground shelters or rock crevices.

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



Above: typical feeding habitat in woodland edges
© Arthur Rivett

Below: Natterer's tree roost, Ickworth Park © Arthur Rivett

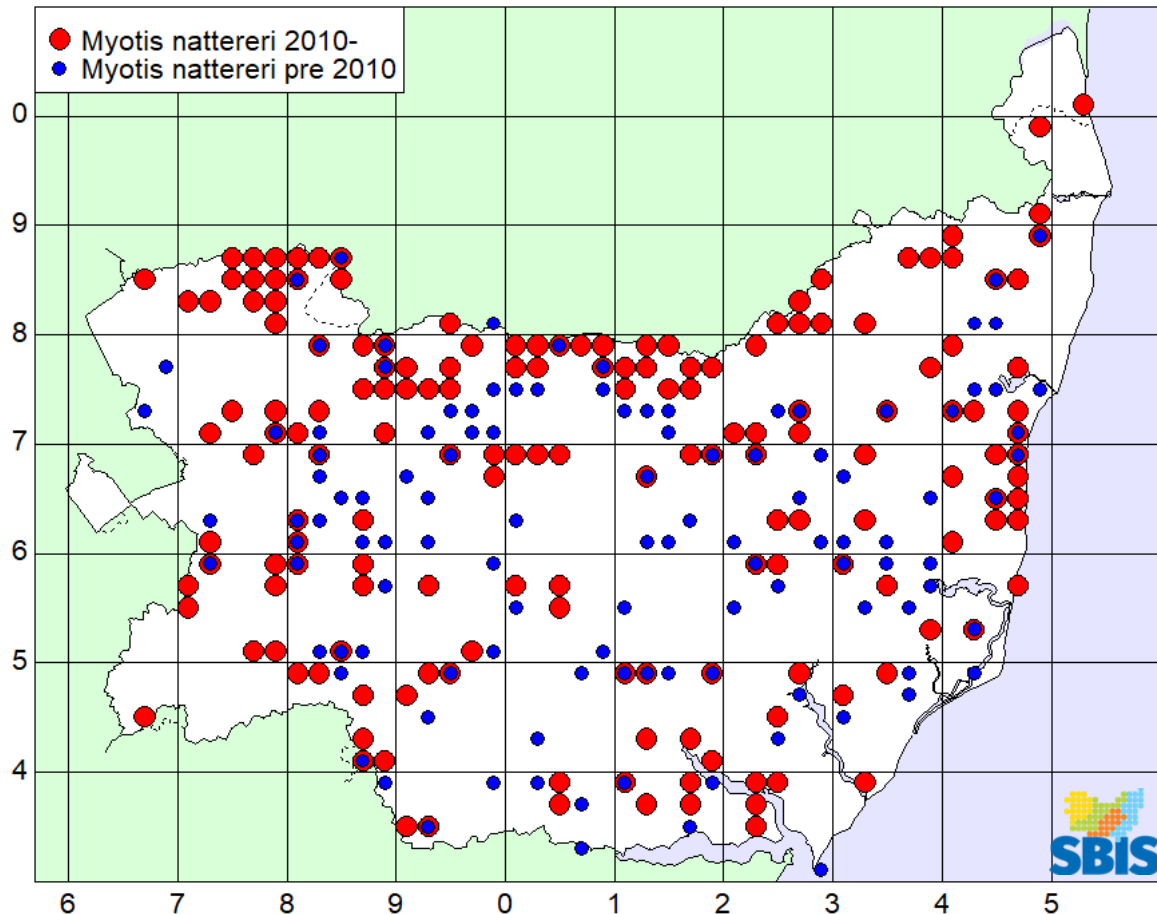
Natterer's bat in Suffolk

This species has a widespread distribution throughout Great Britain and in Suffolk. Prior to the 1996 Suffolk Barn Survey, almost all records related to animals found in hibernation sites. The barn survey provided a three-fold increase in records of the species and located a number of nursery roosts. Barns that need surveying before planning applications for conversion still provide a number of new records, though these are now very much reduced as the number of available buildings diminishes.

Natterer's use most of the known hibernation sites around the county with the highest numbers being found during cold spells of weather. They frequently share their hibernation sites with Daubenton's bat. Since 2012 a further 63 locations have now been , indicating a very wide distribution across the county.

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

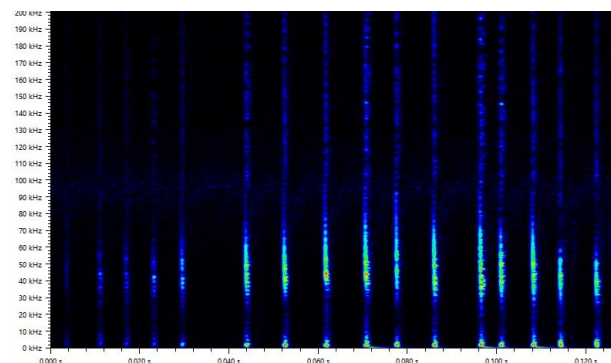
Threats include barn conversions, encroaching urban developments, habitat changes and pesticides reducing prey.



Further information

- **Bat Conservation Trust: Fact sheet, photos and listen to Natterer'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/natterers-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



Natterer's bat echolocation call (sonogram)