

Brandt's Bat

Myotis brandtii

Mammal · Active Apr-Oct · hibernates in winter



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A small bat, very close in appearance to the whiskered bat but usually with slightly glossier, more golden-tipped fur and a paler face and ears. The two were only recognised as distinct species in 1970 and are still frequently recorded together as 'whiskered/Brandt's'. Brandt's bat is more strongly associated with woodland and water than its near-twin, and is thinly recorded across the region.

BEHAVIOUR

It hunts small flies and moths in fluttering flight along woodland rides, treelines and over water, gleaning some prey from foliage. Brandt's bats roost in tree holes and buildings and hibernate underground. The species is remarkable for longevity: a ringed individual was recovered at over forty years old, an extraordinary lifespan for a mammal of this size and one that has made these bats a subject of ageing research.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Vesper bats (Vespertilionidae)
SIZE	Wingspan 21–24 cm · recorded living over 40 years
UK STATUS	Protected under UK and European law

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