

Nathusius' Pipistrelle

Pipistrellus nathusii

Mammal · Active Apr-Oct · a genuine migrant

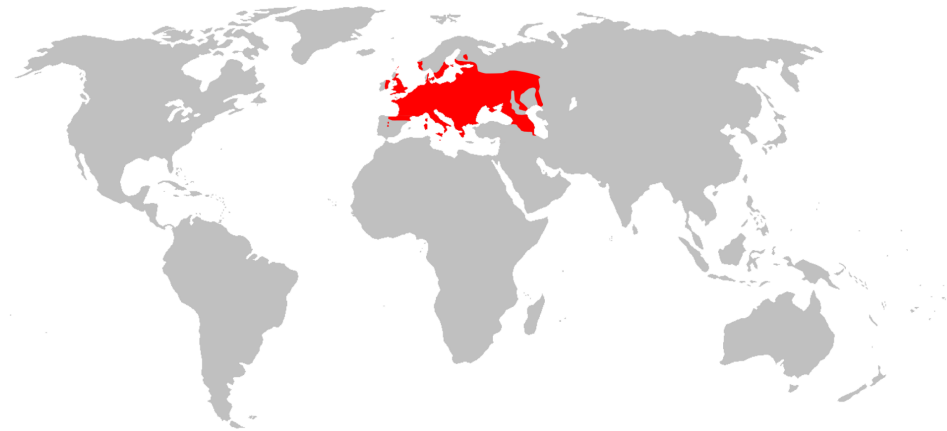


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The largest of the British pipistrelles, with longer, shaggier fur than its relatives, a broader wing and a lower echolocation frequency of around 39 kHz. Nathusius' pipistrelle is scarce and patchily recorded in Britain, strongly associated with water — lochs, large ponds and wooded river corridors — and is most likely to be picked up around the Nith and the region's lochs with a bat detector.

BEHAVIOUR

It hunts midges and small flies low over open water and along woodland edge, often ranging further from the roost than other pipistrelles. What sets it apart is migration: ringing has shown individuals travelling well over a thousand miles between the Baltic and Britain, making it one of very few genuinely migratory bats in Europe and the only one likely to be recorded locally.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Vesper bats (Vespertilionidae)
SIZE	Wingspan 22–25 cm · echolocates at around 39 kHz
UK STATUS	Protected under UK and European law; scarce and migratory

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