

Whiskered Bat

Myotis mystacinus

Mammal · Active Apr-Oct · hibernates in winter



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A small bat with shaggy dark grey-brown fur, a blackish face, ears and wings, and a slightly grizzled look. It is very nearly identical to Brandt's bat, and the two were only separated in the 1970s — reliable identification needs a close look at the teeth and, in males, the genitalia, so many records are logged simply as 'whiskered/Brandt's'. It hunts woodland edge, hedgerow and water around Dumfries.

BEHAVIOUR

Whiskered bats emerge early, often before it is fully dark, and fly a fast, fluttering, repetitive patrol along a hedge line, treeline or over water, taking small flies and moths. They roost in buildings, under hanging tiles and in tree crevices, and hibernate in caves, mines, cellars and stone structures where the temperature stays low and stable through the winter.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Vesper bats (Vespertilionidae)
SIZE	Wingspan 21–24 cm
UK STATUS	Protected under UK and European law

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