



Woodland Bat Surveys

As in other recent years, Surrey Bat Group has taken part in two summer surveys, one concentrating on Nathusius' pipistrelles (see article above) and the other on woodland bats. Ross Baker and Lynn Whitfield have led these with other members attending. Alcathe bat is a main focus of the Woodland Bat Surveys but not many were found this summer.

In the last issue of this newsletter I reported on two of the surveys which I attended before they halted for the birth season. After resumption of the surveys I attended two in August, the first at Staffhurst Wood and the second at Alice Holt.

At Staffhurst Wood bats were coming into the harp traps steadily and a good selection of species was examined. These included brown long eared, Natterer's, Daubenton's and whiskered bats, soprano pipistrelles and a number of noctules.

At Alice Holt, where a triple high mist net was used in addition to two harp traps, fewer bats were caught, in terms of both individuals and species, though a Bechstein's bat was a treat. For some of us though, the highlight was not a bat but a moth. It was a Clifden nonpareil caught in the mist net and efficiently extracted from it by Zuza Featherstone. It was a species she had seen before in her native Poland and she was surprised at the excited reaction of the rest of us for whom it was a new species.

We managed to get it to pose on the grass until it landed on Ross's camera. It then flew up..... only to land on my head!



Brown long eared bat – note the neat folds in the ear as it curls back. Photo Derek Smith



Clifden nonpareil extracted from the net, posing on the grass and frustrating Ross, photos Derek Smith

Photo by John Dixon

Derek Smith