

Brown long-eared bat

Description

The brown long-eared bat has exceptionally long ears measuring from 10 to 14mm – nearly as long as its body. They have broad wings for quiet flight and they are very quick and agile, especially in confined spaces.

Hunting begins about an hour after sunset and occurs in woodland, near thick vegetation, parks, gardens, etc. Their prey is made up of a variety of insects including moths and flies which they catch on the wing. They also feed on non-flying invertebrates, such as spiders, beetles and earwigs which they catch by gleaning, where the bat detects and picks resting insects from foliage.



Mating takes place in the autumn, but fertilisation is delayed until the following spring. In April and May maternity roosts are formed. The female gives birth to a single baby (rarely two) sometime from mid-June to mid-July. Up until the baby is six weeks old it is fed on its mother's milk. By three weeks old the young bats are flying within the roost in preparation for being totally independent in a further three to four weeks. Brown long-eared bats hibernate from November through to late March. They roost in cooler regions of caves and similar environments.

Distribution

Brown long-eared bats are widespread throughout Northern Ireland, they roost in older buildings and woodland.

Action

The Northern Ireland Bat Group and CEDaR collates records for this species

Implementation of the Northern Ireland Woodland Habitat Action Plans

Annual monitoring of this species in Northern Ireland is required to detect annual trends.

Further Information

<http://www.habitas.org.uk/priority/species.asp?item=5102>

MLA Species Champion

