



La Société Sercquaise Report 2024
Bailiwick Bat Survey 2021 to 2024
By Lynda Higgins



Photograph by Daniel Hargreaves

Bailiwick Bat Survey

La Société Sercquaise has been taking part in the research for the Bailiwick Bat Survey. Bat data was gathered throughout the island over four years between 1st April and 31st October. The study's primary aim is to improve our knowledge and understanding of bat distribution and activity across the Bailiwick of Guernsey. The project was funded by the States of Guernsey as part of their responsibilities under EUROBATS treaty. The software and technical research was carried out by Prof. Phil Atkinson and Dr Stuart Newson at the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO).

Common Pipistrelle Bat (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)

Common pipistrelle is our most common bat and represents 97.6% of the data collected.

Leisler's Bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*)

The Leisler's bat (pictured above) was recorded for the first time in Sark at Derrible Bay on 9th October 2023. Two further records were recorded at Beau Soleil on 28th July and at Genetiére Barn on 19th October 2024. Leisler's bat is a rare, but regular migrant to the Channel Islands.

Soprano Pipistrelle Bat (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)

The Soprano pipistrelle bat was recorded for the first time in Sark at Le Vallon d'Or and Beau Soleil as part of the data collected for the Pollinator Project between 9th July and 5th August 2024. This species had previously only been recorded in Alderney.

The Common and Soprano Pipistrelle were only identified as separate species in the 1990s. The two species look very similar but Soprano Pipistrelle bats are distinguished by their higher frequency echolocation call.

Soprano pipistrelles usually feed in wetland habitats and also around woodland edge, tree lines or hedgerows, and in suburban gardens and parks. They feed mainly on small flies, particularly midges and mosquitoes that are associated with water.

Confirmed Species of Bat Found in Sark

At the end of a four year survey period we have eight confirmed species of bats as follows:-

- Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)
- Brown Long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*)
- Grey Long-eared bat (*Plecotus austriacus*)
- Kuhl's pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus kuhlii*)
- Nathusius pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus nathusii*)
- Leisler's bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*)
- Natterer's bat (*Myotis nattereri*)
- Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)

Reports

The 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 results reports can be seen using the following link. The 2024 report will be published in April. <https://bats.org.gg/bbs/reports/>