

Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)



The Common pipistrelle is Britain's smallest bat species group and is the same weight as a 2p coin. It has a wingspan of 20-23.5cm and head and body length of 3.5-4.5 cm, these bats appear bigger in flight. It is one of the most common bat species in the British Isles and can often be found in buildings.

Pipistrelles usually appear about 10 minutes after the first Noctules appear but fly closer to the ground. They will often hunt up and down a regular 'beat', twisting and turning as they detect and pursue tiny insects.

Nathusius' pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus nathusii*)



The Nathusius' pipistrelle is a rare bat in the UK. It is usually migratory with most bats encountered in autumn, although some remain all year and breed in the UK. It is similar in appearance to Common and Soprano pipistrelles, but slightly larger with a wingspan between 22-25cm and a head and body length of 4.5-5.5cm. The fur on its back is longer, giving a shaggy appearance. It feeds on medium-sized flying insects such as aquatic flies, midges, mosquitoes and caddis flies.

Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)



The Soprano pipistrelle is a small bat which has a wingspan of 19-23cm and head and body length of 3.5-4.5 cm. It is like the common pipistrelle but distinguished by its higher frequency echolocation call. It was only formally separated from the common pipistrelle recently and is possible that these two groups diverged from one another in the Mediterranean, which is why it can regulate its body temperatures in heat as high as 40°C.

Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*)



The Noctule bat is our largest British species and is usually the first bat to appear in the evening, sometimes even before sunset. It flies high in the air, dramatically stooping in its flight path every so often. It is a large reddish bat with broad brown ears and looks even bigger when in flight with its wingspan of 35cm and a head and body length of 6.5-8cm. Noctule bats tend to prefer tree holes and mainly eat non-biting midges, beetles, moths and winged ants.