



Amazing Bats

How much do you know about bats?

January - February

Bats are hibernating to conserve energy in the colder months when insects are hard to find.

March

Bats are beginning to emerge and can be seen feeding as the weather gets warmer.

Bats are hungry and active, feeding most nights.

April

Female bats are beginning to form maternity colonies and are looking for suitable nursery sites, such as buildings, trees or bat boxes.

May

Female bats give birth to a single young, which will start to fly at three weeks old.

August - September - October

Mating occurs through the autumn and bats can often be seen "swarming" outside the roost.

November - December

Bats become torpid (sluggish and cold) as they drop their body temperature and begin hibernation.



A brown long-eared bat can hear a ladybird walking on a leaf



All British bats and their roosts are protected by law



A single pipistrelle can eat 3,000 tiny insects in just one night



Bats are indicators of a healthy, diverse environment



Bats are the only mammals that can fly



All of the 17 breeding species in the UK feed on insects



Bats are gentle, clean and sociable animals



Bats can see, but use their ears to hunt in the dark using echolocation



With wings folded, a tiny pipistrelle could fit into a matchbox



Bats don't make nests or chew wires when roosting in buildings



Bats only have one baby each year, called a pup

- 1 BROWN LONG-EARED
- 2 LEISLER'S
- 3 LESSER HORSESHOE
- 4 PIPISTRELLE
- 5 NOCTULE
- 6 DAUBENTON'S
- 7 SEROTINE
- 8 NATTERER'S
- 9 BRANDT'S
- 10 BARBASTELLE
- 11 WHISKERED

Photos courtesy of: Gareth Jones, Surrey Bat Group, Daniel Hargreaves, Hazel Ryan and Hugh Clark