

There are 9 resident bat species in Ireland, of which 8 are found in Dublin. These are:

Soprano and Common Pipistrelle Bats, Nathusius Pipistrelle, Brown Long Eared Bat, Leisler's Bat, Daubenton's Bat (Water bat), Natterer's Bat and Whiskered Bat. Our Irish bats are insectivores, they are tiny and one little bat will eat 3000 insects in a night so they are fantastic pest controllers. Each species occupies a slightly different niche therefore can live side by side e.g. Daubenton's Bat feeds off insects over a water body; Leisler's Bats take insects off open grass areas and Pipistrelles feed around trees.



Irish Soprano Pipistrelle bat

Bat Boxes:

If erecting bat boxes, certain heights and orientation are required. See <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/give-nature-a-home-in-your-garden/garden-activities/buildabatbox/> Or

https://birdwatchireland.ie/app/uploads/2021/01/5362-BirdWatchIreland-BatBox_leaflet_HR.pdf.




Integrated building bat brick

Bat boxes: Silver bullet solutions??

- Need specific humidity and temperature
- Bat boxes need to be monitored
- Need to place one on 3 sides of a tree or building
- Not often used
- Used mainly by:
 - Soprano pipistrelles
 - Leislars
 - Brown Long eared Bats

Extract from presentation given by M. Stack on bats and bat boxes

Integrated design in new buildings:

A new publication by Sullivan and Lusby (2021) outlines the Irish wildlife that use buildings and legislation protecting them as well as mitigation measures that can be taken to protect this wildlife. This publication is in two parts:

https://birdwatchireland.ie/app/uploads/2021/02/Wildlife-in-Buildings_ENG_LR_Part1.pdf

https://birdwatchireland.ie/app/uploads/2021/02/Wildlife-in-Buildings_ENG_LR_Part2.pdf

A 2014 publication by Bat Conservation Ireland also outlines mitigation for developers:

https://www.batconservationireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/BCIrelandGuidelines_Building.pdf



An integrated bat box in a building

Wildlife planting:

If you can attract moths, you will help to attract Bats. Some plants are better than others for attracting moths.

Bats: Why do we want them? One can eat 3000 insects a night including mosquitos and midges



How to attract bats to your garden:

- Insect prey: long grass, water, pollinator flowers, night scented flowers
- Moths at night: night scented flowers
- Pond
- Linear features: treelines/hedgerow to help navigate
- Low lights. Bright yard lights deter bats.

Some night scented flowers:



Jasmine



Honeysuckle



Evening primrose



Pale flowers attract insects at dusk e.g. Holly

Extract from presentation on bats given by M. Stack

Bat surveys:

In order to conserve bats, we need to know if they are there. It's not always possible to see them but we can 'hear' them by using 'bat detectors'.

Bats use echolocation to locate their prey. That is, they call and their calls bounce off objects in front of them, the 'bounce' is heard by the bat and recognized as whatever object it bounced off e.g. insect, tree, house. We cannot hear those calls as they are at a frequency too high for our hearing to detect. A bat detector translates those high frequency calls into sounds we can hear and it truly opens up a world of nocturnal wildlife wonder



Simple hand held bat detector

Bats should only be surveyed at certain times of year. A survey must be undertaken in the Summer and ideally, again at another time of year. See https://www.batconservationireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/BCIrelandGuidelines_Building.pdf for information on bat surveying.