

Natterer's Bat

Myotis nattereri

Mammal · Active Apr-Oct · hibernates in winter



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A medium-sized bat with greyish-brown upperparts and a strikingly clean white belly, a pink face and a distinctive fringe of stiff bristles along the edge of the tail membrane. Natterer's bats roost in tree holes, old stone buildings and bridges, and hunt in woodland, parkland and along the treed corridors around Dumfries. Stone bridges over the region's burns are a classic roost site.

BEHAVIOUR

Natterer's is a gleaner: it flies slowly and manoeuvrably close to vegetation, using very quiet, broadband echolocation, and picks insects and spiders directly off leaves, bark and even out of webs rather than catching them in flight. The bristled tail membrane is used as a scoop to trap prey. Its slow, hovering flight makes it one of the more identifiable bats to watch in a torch beam.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Vesper bats (Vespertilionidae)
SIZE	Wingspan 24.5–30 cm
UK STATUS	Protected under UK and European law

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