

Scottish Bat workers Conference 2007

The following brief descriptions of the workshops are given to help delegates rank their preferences. (This is done on the booking form.) Confirmation of which workshops delegates have been allocated will be send out (usually by email) as bookings are processed. BCT will try to match delegates to their preferred options where this is possible but no guarantee can be given.

1	Tree Surveys	Mark Robinson	Indoors and Outdoors
2	Assessing buildings for Swifts	Edward Mayer	Outdoors
3	Bat Sound Analysis	Jules Agate + helpers	Indoors
4	What's in a Dropping	Dr Sue Swift	Indoors
5	Introduction to Heterodyne	TBC	Indoors
6	What to do if you suspect a bat crime?	Derek Whittle	Indoors
7	Bats and Licensing issues Discussion group	Reps from Scottish Gov. Licensing Dept. & SNH TBC	Indoors
8	What's new in bat equipment?	TBC	Indoors

Workshop details

1 Tree Survey – Leader Mark Robinson

Maximum Number = 10

Useful equipment – binoculars,

This session will be held both indoors and outdoors. (So bring suitable clothing/shoes). Mark will describe his survey techniques for assessing the potential of trees to hold bat roosts. He will also show some of the techniques used to retain roosts and enhance woodland for bats. This will be followed by time out of doors assessing trees for their potential as bat roosts. Suitable for beginners

2 Creating nest places for Swifts - Edward Mayer - London's Swifts

Maximum Number = 12

Outdoor clothes

This workshop will be held outdoors, and will discuss how to maintain and create nest places for Swifts in a variety of suitable building types. It is aimed at any one who is involved with maintaining biodiversity within the built environment, and in particular, is intended to equip Bat Workers with additional knowledge so they may also help conserve Swifts within the same structures that Bats occupy.

Basic knowledge of how buildings are constructed would be helpful to participants, but is not essential.

Suitable outdoor clothing is essential plus umbrellas or waterproofs if it is raining.

3 Sound Analysis Workshop (max number 25 assuming 5 helpers) **Indoors**

Lead by various experienced bat sound analysers working with small groups; we will cover some software which is likely to include BatScan & BatSound and may also include Wavesurfer, Analook and possibly Audacity (depending on demonstrator availability). We will look at analysis techniques such as making measurements of peak frequency, high and low frequency, duration, inter-pulse interval to try and work through some typical analysis examples. Demonstrators will have call libraries to refer to in order to show various UK species reference calls in typical and non-typical situations.

The workshop is suitable for all levels of sound analysis experience but you will get most out of it if you have at least looked at a program beforehand. A demo version of BatSound can be downloaded at <http://www.batsound.com/psonan.html> This is your chance to ask us questions about your software or any particular problems you are experiencing in analysis.

(NB: If you are an experienced bat sound analyser and would like to help demonstrate please contact Anne Youngman and tell us what software you have and whether you are comfortable with time expansion, frequency division or both systems).

4. What's in a Dropping- Dr Sue Swift **Maximum: number = 10** **Indoors**

The aim of the workshop is to learn how to glean the maximum amount of information from the commonest signs of bats – their droppings. We will discuss how to distinguish bat droppings from those of small mammals and insectivorous birds, and how to use size, shape and location of pellets to deduce bat species. We will also look at the basics of microscopic faecal analysis, including skills needed, equipment, techniques and pitfalls. How reliable is faecal analysis as a method of identifying bat colonies, and what are the diagnostic arthropod remains to look out for in each bat species?

No previous experience is needed. The workshop is indoors, and will be a mixture of discussion and hands-on practical work. Be prepared to get close to a variety of (dry and non-smelly) droppings and, if you have them, bring along fine forceps, a powerful magnifier (at least X10) and any interesting droppings you can find. These should either be from bats or else similar to those of bats in size and shape.

5. What to do if you suspect a bat crime? – **Derek Whittle Police Wildlife Crime Officer (PWCO)** **Maximum Number = 25** **Indoors**

This is the workshop you hope you will never need! It will be particularly relevant to bat workers, bat group members and helpline volunteers (i.e. anyone likely to visit the scene of a crime against bats or to be contacted for advice.) The workshop will include instructions on what to record on site and how best to help the Police in their work.

6- Introduction to Heterodyne- TBC

Maximum number = 15

This workshop is aimed at people new to bat detecting or to those wanting to refresh their listening skills. It concentrates on the sounds produced by heterodyne bat detectors. Rather like wine tasting for the ears - learn how to savour the sound and then to describe it in terms of pitch, rhythm, tonal quality and repetition rate. The workshop will also include a brief description of the National Bat Monitoring Programme (a series of surveys that volunteers can take part in.)

7- Bats and Licensing issues- With Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Government Licensing Dept

Discussion group

Maximum number = 20

This is an opportunity for bat workers to hear from SNH and Scottish Govn. about the roles of each organisation in relation to licensing householders; to see examples of the guidance produced and the licence application forms. It is also an opportunity for bat workers to feed back their experiences of the new system and to look to the future. (Perhaps this should be re-named ...*How was it for you?*)

8- What's new in bat equipment?

This is an informal opportunity to find out about

- what's new in bat equipment?
- how equipment works and
- what extras might be needed
- To make comparisons between bat detectors
- and possibly to think about which batty items to put on your Christmas list.

TBC Dr Andrew McLeish, Alana Ecology

Maximum number = 15

END