



## Abstracts, summaries and links to useful websites - Scottish Bat workers Conference 2016

### **Automatic call recognition: what is it, how does it work, and is it any good?**

Dean Waters, University of York, email: [dean.waters@vespero.co.uk](mailto:dean.waters@vespero.co.uk)

Automatic call identification is now a widely used technique in bat surveys due to the speed and cost effectiveness of analysing very large amounts of collected data. This presentation will explain the underlying principles of how automatic call identification works, and some of the limitations. It is important to remember that call identification is a two-stage process, the first being the identification of the call in the recording, and the second being the allocation of that call to a species or species group. This can create a false sense of the effectiveness of the software as only calls that are found and are good enough quality are processed further. For many species, exact identification is impossible and it is important to ensure that the results are scrutinized by a competent individual and not accepted at face value. While common and soprano pipistrelles are often correctly classified, and form the bulk of recordings, all non-pipistrelle identification should be manually checked (as well as any Nathusius identifications) wherever possible.

**The Southern Scotland bat survey** – a citizen science project commissioned by Scottish Natural Heritage and conducted by the British Trust for Ornithology. For more information on the Southern Scotland Bat survey see - <http://www.batsurvey.org/scotland/>

**Bat groups with benefits!** Amanda Wilson, North East Scotland Bat Group email [info@nesbats.co.uk](mailto:info@nesbats.co.uk)

Bat groups have a vast portfolio of activities, from dissecting poo to standing in the dark counting furry things. Ask many people why they joined their local bat group and they will generally point to a desire to improve their bat related skills, like survey skills or handling skills. However, there is a huge range of other equally sophisticated skills that can be developed whilst being involved with bat groups. For example, bat groups typically provide a handful of excellent public engagement opportunities per year, they provide a great setting to develop and reflect upon team building, they can involve collaboration within and out with the group and in most bat groups, volunteers can take

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on project management, developing those skills if they wish. Skill development aside, bat groups offer great social experiences, and let you do cool things you might not otherwise get the chance to do!

## **The Work of Noctalis - World of Bats and Segeberg Cave, Germany, Dr. Anne Ipsen, Fledermaus-Zentrum GmbH (Bat-Center Ltd.)**

The exhibition *Noctalis – World of Bats* and the Segeberg Cave provide an excellent opportunity for visitors and scholars alike to learn more about bats and the ecosystems in which they live. Not only is the Segeberg Cave an important habitat for various bat species, but we also do research in bat protection and share the results with the public. Our exhibition attracts students of biology and related sciences as well as tourists and pupils. Since 2006 approximately 500.000 visitors have come to see the exhibition. More than 27.000 bats from different parts of Northern Europe hibernate in the Segeberg Cave every year.

Website address <http://www.noctalis.de/en/>

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