

Some Nathusius' Pipistrelle News

In the last newsletter I reported on some of the varied species involved in recent bat rescues. On 26 September I was called out to an address in Goldsworth Park, Woking, to pick up a bat which had been found grounded on a road. It turned out to be a female Nathusius' pipistrelle. She had no apparent injuries but her weight was a rather low 6.53 g. Ross Baker and Lynn Whitfield took the opportunity to come to my garden to ring her. For the first couple of days she showed no interest in feeding but just as she finally got an appetite for mealworms there was a spell of wet weather. It all worked out well in the end. By the time I was able to release her on 5 October, at the southern edge of Goldsworth Park Lake, she was an impressive 9.23 g and she flew off strongly.

Some of you may remember Ross and Lynn's Goldsworth Park Bat Survey Report in the Spring 2019 issue of this newsletter. The surveys were carried out after Surrey Bat Group had been approached by Gerry Smeesters, manager of the Natural Goldsworth Park project. Nathusius' pipistrelle was one of the seven species of bat identified in the surveys. Naturally Gerry was interested to hear about the rescued bat and he had a report of bat interest of his own. If a bat catches a large moth it will often hang up to eat it and the moth's wings drop to the ground below. On 18 July this year Gerry found the colourful moth wing, shown in the photo below, on a water feature in his garden.



A beautiful "still life", photo Gerry Smeesters



Goldsworth Park Nathusius' pip, photo Derek Smith

The distinctively marked wing was identified as being from the dark crimson underwing, *Catocala sponsa*, and confirmed by the Surrey moth recorder. This was a significant find as since the 1950s it has been virtually only recorded from the New Forest.

Nathusius' pipistrelle is well known as a champion long-distance migrant. In March 2017 an individual was found freshly dead in Pitillas Lagoon Natural Reserve, Spain, having been ringed at Pape Natural Park, Latvia, in August 2015. The distance between these two sites is 2224 km. This is the longest recorded migratory movement of any ringed bat and the only one exceeding 2000 km. This was reported recently by Juan Tomás Alcalde et al in a free access article in *Mammalia*. See [10.1515/mammalia-2020-0069](https://doi.org/10.1515/mammalia-2020-0069)



Long-distance movement of a Nathusius' pipistrelle from Pape (Latvia) to Pitillas (Spain). *Mammalia* 2020; [10.1515/mammalia-2020-0069](https://doi.org/10.1515/mammalia-2020-0069)