



Nadleśnictwo Lubaczów

14. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT POLISH BATS

- They are not as large as they might appear, as they weigh up to 53 grams, with the largest specimens reaching around 15 centimeters in length and boasting a wingspan of about 40 centimeters.
- They do have eyes and can see well.
- Some individuals can live for over forty years.
- In Poland, there are about twenty-five to twenty-six bat species that appear regularly, and they can be found almost anywhere, depending on whether we recognize how to look for them. Most of these species are both common and widespread.
- Certain bats live in forests and cities, others solely in urban areas, and still others almost exclusively in woodlands.
- They do not build nests like birds but instead occupy existing shelters such as tree hollows, attics, or the walls of buildings.
- Some species migrate seasonally to southern and western Europe for the winter, similarly to birds. They frequently fly even during the day, particularly in spring and autumn. All native bat species in Poland are protected by law and require active conservation efforts, for example, securing their wintering sites or providing specially designed tree-mounted roosts in forests.
- A specialist in the study of bats is called a chiropterologist, though the term “nietoperzysta” is becoming more common. Their ability to “see” acoustically in the dark is made possible by echolocation—ultrasonic signals at frequencies ranging from 20 to 120 kHz, which are inaudible to humans—although bats also use social calls that we can hear, for example to communicate with one another.



Breeding colony of Myotis and horseshoe bats



Noctule bats in tree shelters



Winter bat refuge



Portrait of a pipistrelle



Bat shelter

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