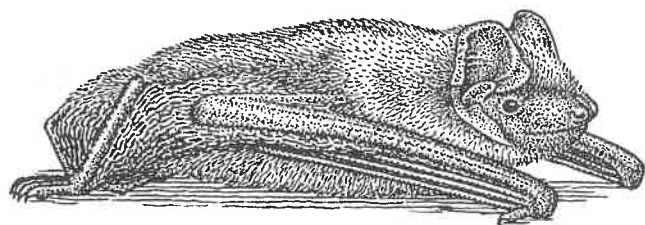


# *Nyctalus noctula* (SCHREBER, 1774)



P. Twisk

## Distribution

**World:** most of Europe and Asia to south-western Siberia, China, north Vietnam, and Taiwan, doubtfully Malaysia. Also recorded from Africa. Assumed to have reached Mozambique on at least one occasion.

**Europe:** from the Iberian Peninsula to the Urals and Caucasus. Several bat-detector records from Ireland (I. Ahlén & H. J. Baagøe, pers. comm.). In Sweden the northern limit coincides with the *limes norrlandicus* (60-61°N), which marks the transition from the broad-leaved forest to the boreal coniferous forest.

## Geographic variation

At present, five subspecies are presumably recognized, but only the nominate form in Europe. It is possible, however, that there is more than one species represented in this complex.

## Habitat

Altitudinal range from sea level to 1923 m in the Alps. The species originally used trees throughout the year and rock crevices for hibernation, but has now adopted buildings, particularly for hibernation in central Europe. Forages mainly over lakes, ponds, meadows, and marshland, usually in the vicinity (<10 km) of the roosting site. Preys preferentially on Trichoptera, Diptera, Lepidoptera, and Coleoptera. Low winter temperatures govern the need for southerly, frequently mass migration in autumn. In spring, only females are

## Noctule

AL	Lakuriqnate noktule	LT	Bėschflėntermaus
BG	Обикновен вечерник	LV	Rūsganais vakarsikspārnis
CZ	Netopýr rezavý	MK	Лисест вечерник
DE	Abendsegler	MT	Noktula
DK	Brunflagermus	NL	Rosse vleermuis
EE	Suurvidevlane	NO	Storflaggermus
ES	Murciélago nóctulo común	PL	Borowiec wielki
FI	Isolepakko	PT	Morcego-arborícola-grande
FO	-	RO	Liliacul-de-amurg
FR	Noctule commune	RU	Рыжая вечерница
GR	Νυχτοβάτης	SE	Stor fladdermus
HR	Rani večernjak	SI	Navadni mračnik
HU	Közönséges koraidenevér	SK	Netopier hrdzavý
IR	Ialtóg noctúil	TR	Akşamcı yarasa
IS	Hútblaka	YU	Средњи ноћник
IT	Nottola comune		
LT	Rudasis nakviša		

known to migrate back to the region where they were born, while males are believed to stay in the mating area. Longest recorded movement 1600 km.

## Population status

In general still widespread and abundant across its range. In optimal habitats, population densities range from 30 to 80 ind./km<sup>2</sup>. Now quite rare in parts of Great Britain, particularly in agricultural areas. Documented local declines in the Netherlands are mainly attributed to loss of wetlands. Regarded as vulnerable in Sweden because of the rapid destruction of hollow trees.

## International legal & conservation status

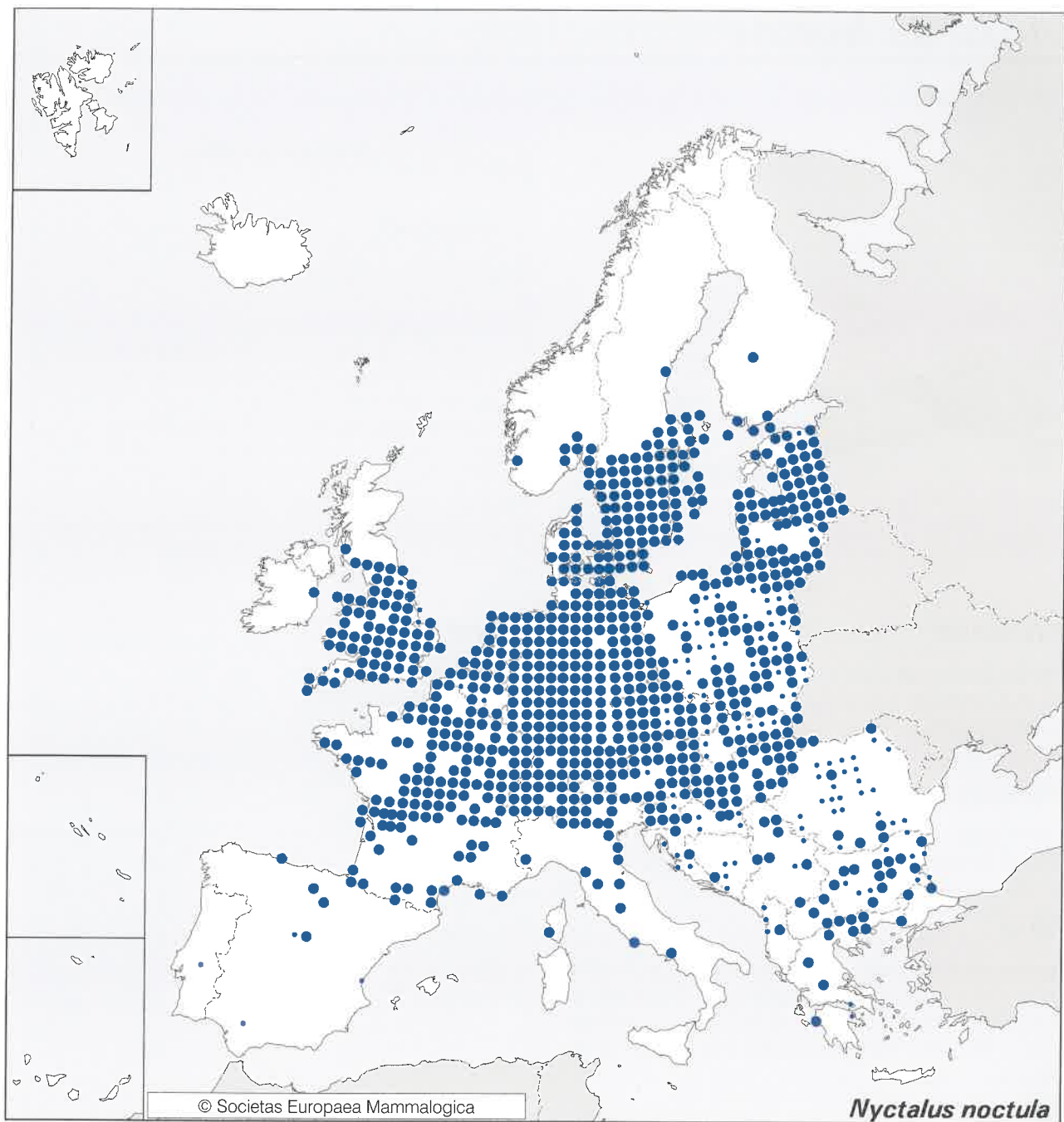
Bern Convention, Appendix II.

Bonn Convention, Appendix II.

EU Habitats & Species Directive, Annex IV.

## Other information

May be subject to some illegal persecution. The availability of tree holes may limit populations, and bat-boxes are readily used. In Germany, found with a concentration of organochlorine residues which may cause chronic diseases.



## Literature

- Ahlén & Gerell (1989)  
 Boonman *et al.* (1997)  
 Corbet & Hill (1992)  
 Gaisler *et al.* (1979)  
 Gloor *et al.* (1995)  
 Scharenberg (1992)

W. Bogdanowicz