

# *Eptesicus serotinus* (SCHREBER, 1774)



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## Distribution

**World:** Europe, North Africa, Near East, central Asia, east to China and Taiwan. Northern Indomalayan region.

**Europe:** absent from Ireland, northern Britain, most of Sweden, Norway, Finland and Estonia. Found throughout the rest of Europe, including some Mediterranean islands. One record also from the Canary Islands.

## Geographic variation

Several extralimital subspecies accepted, but only the nominate form currently recognized in Europe.

## Habitat

Highly synanthropic with summer roosts most commonly in buildings, occasionally trees, where it forms maternity colonies of *ca.* 20–60 individuals (up to 100+). Winter roosts in buildings, underground sites in small numbers, particularly in south-eastern Europe. Hunts in varying habitats, including parkland, hedgerows, woodland edge, white streetlights and gardens, and unimproved pastures. Preys mainly on chafer beetles in spring and early summer, and dung beetles in autumn, also moths, tipulids and other small dipterans, hemipterans, and hymenopterans. Recorded up to 900 m in summer, and 1 100 m in winter. Generally sedentary; longest recorded movement 330 km.

## Serotine

|    |                         |    |                        |
|----|-------------------------|----|------------------------|
| AL | Lakuriqnate serotine    | LT | Vėlyvasis šikšnys      |
| BG | Късновечерен прилеп     | LJ | -                      |
| CZ | Netopýr večerní         | LV | Platspārnu sikspārnis  |
| DE | BreitflügelFledermaus   | MK | Ширококрилен северник  |
| DK | Sydflagermus            | MT | Serotin                |
| EE | Hilis-nahkhiir          | NL | Laatvliieger           |
| ES | Murciélago de huerta    | NO | Sørflaggermus          |
| FI | Etelänlepakko           | PL | Mroczek późny          |
| FO | -                       | PT | Morcego-hortelão       |
| FR | Sérotine commune        | RO | Liliacul-cu-aripi-late |
| GR | Τρανονυχτερίδα          | RU | Поздний кожан          |
| HR | Kasni noćnjak           | SE | Sydfladdermus          |
| HU | Közönséges késeidenevér | SI | Pozni netopir          |
| IR | -                       | SK | Netopier pozdný        |
| IS | Síðblaka                | TR | Geniş kanatlı yarasa   |
| IT | Serotino comune         | YU | Велики поноћњак        |

## Population status

Population probably stable in most of Europe. Some evidence of recent expansion in Denmark. Some local declines recorded with perceived threat to population owing to loss of pasture and increase in use of cattle antihelminthic drugs reducing the number of dung beetles. Also problems associated with maintenance and renovation of buildings.

## International legal & conservation status

Bern Convention, Appendix II.  
Bonn Convention, Appendix II.  
EU Habitats & Species Directive, Annex IV.

## Other information

The bat species with the highest incidence of rabies-related virus in mainland Europe.

## Literature

Baagøe (1986)  
Beck (1995)  
Brass (1994)  
Catto *et al.* (1994)  
Koopman (1994)  
Robinson & Stebbings (1994)

C. M. C. Catto & A. M. Hutson

