

The Wildlife Trust / Beds, Cambs, Northants

September 2026

Bats

Bats are fascinating animals but are hard to monitor. Wildlife Trust BCN staff and volunteers do regular surveys in some of our nature reserves making use of static remote monitors and hand-held professional bat detectors, backed up by sonogram analysis and specialist traps, which need a license to deploy and require strict protocols for handling animals.

These kinds of surveys are carried out across the UK and the records add to a national picture, but the data is often not enough. My favourite fact is that we still don't know where common and soprano pipistrelles go in winter – and these are our most common bat species.

Here are a few more great bat facts. Why not join me for a night walk to find out more?

- Noctules are the UK's largest bat, and quite common. They have a wingspan of around 40 cm and are often seen flying in open sky before it is dark, so can be mistaken for birds.
- Daubenton's bats are specialists in eating insects over water. They can scoop up insects using their tail membrane and then grab them with their feet.
- Moths are furry in-part to absorb the sound that bats make to find their prey and make them harder to locate.
- Check out the bat punt safaris in Cambridge run in partnership with Scudamores until the end of September. Visit their website to book: scudamores.com/bat-safari-punting.

September events in Cambourne and Cambridge (visit wildlifebcn.org/events to book)

- Fri 18th Sept, 7.30-9 pm: **Cambourne family night walk** with bat detectors (£6 + booking fee for Wildlife Trust BCN member, £9+ for non-members. Accompanying adults are free).
- Sat 19th Sept, 9.30 am-12.30 pm: **Cambourne Nature Girls nature journalling** session. This is a social group for women. (£8 + booking fee for Wildlife Trust BCN members, £10 for non-members).
- Mon 14th Sept, 9.30am-12 noon: **Trumpington Meadows monthly meander** (£8 + booking fee for Wildlife trust BCN members, £10+ for non-members).

- Wed 23rd Sept, 6-7.15 pm: **Trumpington Meadows seasonal stroll** about trees (£6 + booking fee for Wildlife trust BCN members, £9+ for non-members).
 - Sat 26th Sept, 7.15-8.45 pm: **Trumpington Meadows family night walk** with bat detectors (£6 + booking fee for Wildlife Trust BCN member, £9+ for non-members. Accompanying adults are free).
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Local enquiries

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General enquiries

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The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs, and Northants is a local wildlife conservation charity aiming to achieve bigger, better, and more joined up habitats for wildlife and people. We do this by working in partnership to conserve and enhance habitats and biodiversity, and through community work, helping people enjoy, understand, and take action for wildlife.