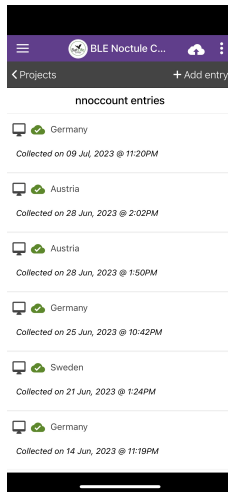


## Use our App!



For the coordinate-referenced (GPS) recording of the counting results and transmission to a map server on the internet, we provide an app for smartphones. It can be used to upload the coordinates of the observation site and the counting results directly to the project homepage and the reports of all participants can be viewed there.

Find out more:

<https://five.epicollect.net/project/ble-noctule-count>

Install the epicollect APP via google play Store or iOS App Store

Then add the project "BLE Noctule Count"

## About BLE

BatLife Europe is an international non-governmental bat conservation organisation built from a partnership of national bat conservation organisations that are committed to promoting the conservation of all bat species and their habitats throughout Europe. We are registered as a "Stichting" in the Netherlands.

Contact: [batlifeeurope@bats.org.uk](mailto:batlifeeurope@bats.org.uk)

<https://www.batlife-europe.info>

<https://www.facebook.com/BatLifeEurope/>



(Pictures frontpage: Matthias Mähler)



## NOCTULE-COUNT

*Join our easy, accessible monitoring system and spot Common noctules.*

## The idea

The necessary conversion of energy production to green sources poses new challenges for species conservation. Bats, the most species-rich group of mammals, suffer greatly from the construction of wind turbines or their unregulated operation. At the same time, we know little about the population trends of many species.

The Common noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*), a species widely distributed across Europe, is the most affected bat species by wind turbines. As an early-flying bat, however, it is easy to observe. The idea is therefore to draw long-term conclusions about population changes from many observations of the maximum number of common noctules flying simultaneously at one location at dusk. This data will also improve our knowledge of the species' distribution. For a migratory species, this can only be achieved with a large-scale approach with many observers.

## Our vision

We aim to initialize an easy-accessible monitoring system that can be implemented by interested persons, citizen-scientists and bat workers to obtain activity data of the common noctule from all over Europe to monitor population trends of this species.

## Instructions

### WHEN to count ?

In the first period, counting should take place on two evenings at one spot between Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> and Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> 2023. If possible a gap of 5 days in between would be nice.

### HOW to count?

Look for a place with a free view over the sky and observe the evening sky for 30 minutes.

Write down the maximum number of common noctules seen flying simultaneously in this period. Best practice would be to directly enter the data in the BLE's monitoring-app. A bat detector and binoculars might be helpful.

### WHERE to count ?

The best sites are places where forests and waterbodies merge:

- at rivers and small streams
- at small ponds and lakes
- often in parks

If local or regional groups are counting it would be best to monitor sites in fixed distances.

### HOW to recognise a common noctule ?

In the early parts of evenings there might be also birds flying around. Common noctules are nonetheless quite easy to recognise:

- The flight mechanism seems a bit "heavy" as the wings make wide movements.
- The bat's body looks chubbier and bats have no tails.
- Bats often make abrupt "sudden" movements, when they detect insects and do not make smooth gliding flight paths.

The pictures on the front page show typical flight situations of common noctules.