Bats in the West End of Glasgow (Chiroptera: Pipistrellus sp., *Myotis daubentonii, Plecotus auritus*)

Richard B Weddle

89 Novar Drive, Glasgow, G12 9SS
E-mail: richard.weddle@tiscali.co.uk

A recent Short Note (MacNaught, D. Bats in Clarence Drive; The Glasgow Naturalist 24 (2), 143) described bats patrolling a floodlit football pitch (NS556672) in the late evening. The likelihood is that these were species of Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus* or *P. pygmaeus*), though there is a record of brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*) in a nearby tenement (Sutcliffe, R. (1989); Glasgow Museums Biological Records Centre). The Glasgow Museums BRC has few other records of bats in this area, and there appear to be none in the public domain, so this note reports further investigations into the species and habits of bats in Hyndland, Partickhill, and other locations in the West End of Glasgow, in the years 2008 and 2009. The bats' calls were detected using a Batbox Duet detector (Alana Ecology, Bishop's Castle, Shropshire) linked to an Edirol R-09 digital recorder (Studiospares, London); the recordings were analysed using BatScan software (Alana Ecology). All records included in this report are the author's own observations unless otherwise indicated. The common (45kHz) pipistrelle (*P. pipistrellus*) has often been detected – and occasionally seen – principally in a small woodland alongside the north end of Hayburn Lane, behind Novar Drive (NS556676), in the adjacent wooded area of Hyndland Old Station Park (NS558676), and in the trees around the (well-lit) childrens' play area in Novar Drive (NS557675). In nearby Partickhill, the same species has been heard in the mature trees in the gardens and streets of the area defined by Turnberry Road, Banavie Road and Partickhill Road. It has also been seen feeding in the small park, adjacent to that area, at the southern end of Hayburn Lane and at east end of Hayburn Crescent (NS554669). It would be possible for bats to follow a tree-lined path along the whole length of Hayburn Lane from Hyndland Old Station Park, through the above-mentioned woodlands behind Novar Drive, and along the railway embankment, to this small (and apparently unnamed) park. No more than one bat has been recorded on any one time in any of these locations; though this does not rule out the possibility of a succession of single bats moving through the area.

However, a resident of a house overlooking Dowanhill Park (NS561669) reported frequent sightings of up to five individuals flying there; following this report, a single common pipistrelle was seen and identified from a recording of its call on two separate occasions.

The common Pipistrelle, the soprano (55kHz) pipistrelle (*P. pygmaeus*) and Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*) have all been recorded – and the latter seen by torchlight - along the River Kelvin at Glasgow Botanic Gardens and downstream to the weir below Kelvinbridge. The region further downstream was not investigated, though there are prior records of all three species, and of brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*), from Kelvingrove Park (Glasgow Museums Biological Record Centre). Soprano pipistrelle has also been recorded at Bingham's Pond (NS555682) and in a garden in North Woodlands Road (NS577670). The call of the brown long-eared bat is difficult to detect and record using the techniques described; to determine whether it is still present in the area would probably require more direct methods such as searching roof-spaces. It is known to favour 'traditional attic' spaces, such as might be found in the detached and semi-detached houses of Partickhill (Entwhistle, A.C. et al., Roost Selection by the brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*, Journal of Applied Ecology 1997, 34, 399-408), though it is possible that recent 'home improvements' may have reduced the accessibility and or suitability of these locations.

The main focus of aim of this research was to investigate which species were present and how widely they range. It was interesting to find that both Pipistrelle species were present in this urban setting, and that the common pipistrelle takes advantage of the tree-cover over the whole area. In this respect 'connectivity' is no doubt very important – that is, that there are no significant gaps in the tree coverage – this could become an issue as the existing trees reach the end of the natural life-span. Also it has been suggested (K. Cohen, pers. comm.) that *P. pipistrellus* is more of a habitat generalist than *P. pygmaeus*, the latter being less frequent in, as opposed to around, built-up areas; there is insufficient data in these findings to comment on this, though there is a suggestion of an association between *pygmaeus* and trees bordering water (Bingham's Pond and near the River Kelvin). A study of habitat preference would form a useful basis for further research; it would also be interesting to discover the roost sites being used. These records, like all mammal records from the Glasgow Museums BRC database, can be viewed at http://data.nbn.org.uk/ by typing the species name in the Search box. Records can also be supplied on request from Glasgow Museums BRC: biological.records@csglasgow.org.

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