

=== BOOK REVIEW ===

BATS OF BRITAIN, EUROPE AND NORTHWEST AFRICA.

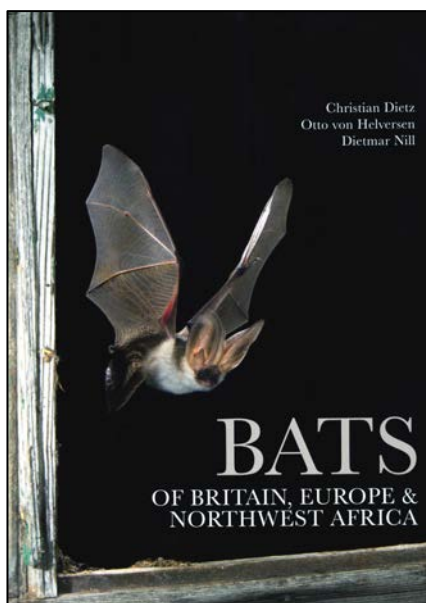
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Bats of Britain, Europe and Northwest Africa, Christian Dietz, Otto von Helversen, Dietmar Nill, A & C Black, London, 2009, 400 p.
ISBN: 978-1-4081-0531-3

It is a complete handbook which provides useful information not only for specialists but for bat enthusiasts too. This is an English translation of the “Handbuch der Fledermäuse Europas und Nordwestafrikas: Biologie, Kennzeichen, Gefährdung“, which appeared in 2007 in Germany.

The book can be divided into two parts.

The **first part** of the book presents the body structure, evolution and taxonomy of the bats. The introductory chapters describe the global diversity and the flight characteristics of the bats. A brief chapter is dedicated to echolocation: call ‘design’, ecological adaptation to habitat and hunting methods. The following chapters discuss the hunting strategies and prey-preferences of the European and Northwest African bats. The next chapters describe the migration and orientation mechanisms, the torpor and hibernation strategies, social behaviour, roost structure and roosting habits developed by the bats. The final chapters of the first part present the population biology and some practical conservation measures of the bats. A short chapter is dedicated to species identification by using echolocation calls.



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The *second part* presents all the 51 bat species of Vespertilionidae, Rhinolophidae, Hipposideridae, Rhinopomatidae, Nycteriade, Pteropodidae, Miniopteridae, and Molossidae families that occur across Europe and Northwest Africa. This part also contains the identification keys to bat families preceded by descriptions of standardized measurement methods. Every species-description contains a discussion about identification methods, echolocation calls, habitat, behaviour and migration data. The descriptions are completed with amazing pictures, illustrations and distribution maps.

The last chapter of the book presents the current conservation status of European bats based on IUCN data.

Finally I would like to thank to Vicky Atkins from Bloomsbury Publishing Plc. providing me the inspection copy of this book.