

**THE 9<sup>th</sup> IRISH BAT CONFERENCE**  
Clayton Hotel, Leopardstown, Dublin  
14th to 15th October 2017



**CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**  
**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

08.00 Conference Registration

**09.00 WELCOMING ADDRESS**

**09.05 Keynote Presentation by Christian Voigt: Moving across anthropogenic landscapes - big challenges and few opportunities for bats**

09.45 Dreaming big and taking the landscape approach: the challenges faced in developing a farm project for lesser horseshoe bats in Limerick. Kate McAney

09.57 Landscape permeability for the lesser horseshoe bat at a maternity roost in the Burren. Ruth Hanniffy

10.09 \*Modelling dispersal from greater horseshoe bat roosts. Domhnall Finch

10.21\* Sustainable development of greenways. Julien Carlier

10.33 Q & A

**10.43 Morning coffee & a chance to view sales stands and posters**

11.20\*Using DNA techniques to improve national population estimates of a rare Irish bat species, the lesser horseshoe bat. Andrew Harrington

11.32 \*The role of proteostasis in bat's halted ageing: a comparative analysis of the efficiency of the autophagy machinery in young versus old bats. Andrea Locatelli

11.44 \*Elucidating drivers of telomere dynamics in an exceptionally long lived bat species, *Myotis myotis*. Nicole Foley

11.56 Is there a link between aging and microbiome diversity in exceptional mammalian longevity? Graham Hughes

12.08 \*Comparative transcriptomics reveals the mechanisms of extended longevity in *Myotis myotis* bats. Zixia Huang

12.20 \*Comparative mitogenomics reveals divergent mechanisms of mitochondrial maintenance in long-lived bats. David Jebb

12:32 Q & A

**12:45 Lunch & a chance to view sales stands and posters**

**14.15 Invited Presentation by Lucinda Kirkpatrick: Sitka spruce plantations - land of opportunity or ecological trap for bats?**

14.40 Monitoring Ireland's woodland bats: results of a two year pilot scheme. Emma Boston

14.52 10 years of brown long-eared bat roost monitoring in Ireland. Tina Aughney

15.04 An investigation of brown long-eared bat activity as revealed by radio-telemetry at three maternity roosts in Co. Sligo. Barbara McInerney & Caroline Shiel

15.16 BATLAS 2020 – results to date. Simon Pickett

15.28 A volunteer's perspective. Andrew Fenner

15.40 Q & A

**15.50 Afternoon coffee & a chance to view sales stands and posters**

16.20 The literature on Ireland's bats. Karen Loxton

16.32 Surveillance for *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* in British bats and hibernacula. Alex Barlow

16.44 Climate and trends in common Irish bat species. Niamh Roche

16.56 Nathusius' pipistrelle in Ireland. Paul Scott

**17.08 Keynote presentation by Danilo Russo: The importance of insectivorous bats for agriculture, forestry and livestock farming in temperate regions**

17.48 Q & A

17.58 The Vincent Weir Student Presentation Award

**18.05 END OF SATURDAY ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

**20.00 Wine Reception**

\*Presentations eligible for consideration for the Vincent Weir Student Presentation Award

## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017 WORKSHOPS

### 08.30 Registration

Time	Workshop Room A	Time	Workshop Room B
9.00-10.00	Bat Mitigation	9.00-10.30	Bat Identification
<b>10.30-11.00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>	<b>10.30-11.00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
11.00-12.00	Analysing Bat Call Files	11.00-12.00	Bat Care in Northern Ireland
12.00-13.00	New Technology	12.00-13.00	Running Bat Events and Bat Groups
<b>13.00-14.00</b>	<b>Lunch &amp; conference close</b>	<b>13.00-14.00</b>	<b>Lunch &amp; conference close</b>

### Bat Mitigation

This workshop will be facilitated by Tina Aughney (Bat Conservation Ireland) and Paul Lintott (Exeter University). It will include a presentation by Tina detailing successful mitigation projects at a lesser horseshoe bat roost and a bridge site. Tina will also discuss findings from a survey of bat box occupancy at road and housing developments. Paul will then present the results of the CIEEM project which assessed the success of mitigation strategies for bats in buildings. The workshop will end with an open floor discussion focusing on post mitigation monitoring and reporting.

### Analysing Bat Call Files

This workshop will be co-ordinated by Emma Boston (AECOM & Bat Conservation Ireland). It will include a number of pieces of bat identification software: Kaleidoscope (by Wildlife Acoustics, paid software), Bat Explorer (by Elekon, free software), BatClassifyIreland (by Leeds University & Chris Scott, free software). The uses and limitations of each will be discussed. Delegates are encouraged to bring their laptops with Bat Explorer & BatClassifyIreland **prior installed**, as well as sample files for analysis.

### New Technology

John Curtin (independent consultant and Bat Conservation Ireland Council member) will lead this workshop which will take a look at the various pieces of equipment that he has found helpful during bat work including detectors, hand held infra-red cameras and more. Suppliers with sales stands at the conference will also demonstrate some of their wares. Bat workers are encouraged to bring their own favourite gadgets and to contribute their own experiences to the workshop.

### Bat Identification

Niamh Roche (Bat Conservation Ireland) will start with a slide presentation on Irish bats and the features used to identify them. Then delegates will be divided into small teams to work through bat identification keys and identify a number of preserved bat specimens. The workshop finishes with a bat quiz where you can put your newly learned skills to the test!

### Bat Care in Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Bat Group will host a unique workshop to give you an insight into their busy bat care programme. The talk will include real case studies, common injuries and treatment, caring for a pup, bat parasites, the role of a vet, designing a flight pen and how to get involved in bat care. Bat care equipment will be on display including an exercise tent with a rescued bat demonstrating how it works.

### Running Bat Events and Bat Groups

TBC

The 9<sup>th</sup> Irish Bat Conference is kindly supported by

