



BAT CONSERVATION
IRELAND



NEIGHBOURHOOD BATS

Analysis and Report by Mary Roberts | 2025



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BAT CONSERVATION IRELAND MISSION STATEMENT

Bat Conservation Ireland is an independent, non-profit, charity that is Ireland's leading authority on bats. We conduct monitoring and research to increase knowledge of all Irish bat species, and work to secure and expand existing bat populations, and where feasible to extend their ranges. We aim to develop a genuine and widespread understanding and appreciation of bats amongst the public, state agencies and other organisations, and to secure consistent protection of all bat species and the ecological infrastructure necessary to support them.

Nathusius' Pipistrelle bat. Photograph by Paul van Hoof.



INTRODUCTION

In March 2021, Bat Conservation Ireland applied to the Heritage Council for funding to carry out a project 'Neighbourhood Bats: With a little help from Neighbourhood Citizens Scientists', which was a volunteer-led, citizen science project to gather data on bats in particular locations around the country. The funding received allowed us to purchase 10 Song Meter Mini Bat detectors, which culminated in the Neighbourhood Bats Report 2021 and 2022.

Since then, the project has been wholly funded by Bat Conservation Ireland. In 2025 as in 2024, Mary Roberts acted as project coordinator and data analyst on the project.

This project recommenced for the 4th time in 2025 for 2 x 1-week periods (weekend starting 30th August to 15th October).

For the 2025 project, the criteria for the project were changed to allow a more diverse choice in detector deployment location. We asked volunteers to choose two sites. The detector could be placed at each site for a one-week period. These sites were selected from the following options:

- A general site, greenfield or urban, where there was a specific interest in assessing bat diversity and species presence in early autumn.
- A coastal site where the bat group could place a detector to check for peaks in Nathusius' pipistrelle bat activity, as a possible indication of autumn migration.
- An underground potential autumn swarming site.

In this year's Neighbourhood Bats project, 20 locations were covered by 10 bat groups.

The bat groups participating were as follows:

- **Cavan Bat Group**
- **Gorey Bat Group**
- **Kildare Bat Group – covering County Kildare and County Tipperary,**
- **Louth Bat Group**

- **Meath Bat Group**
- **Midland Bat Group**
- **Offaly Bat Group**
- **Wicklow Bat Group**

Bat Conservation Ireland would like to extend thanks to all who gave permission to access property and those who participated in this project to make it possible.

All equipment and details were returned and the data analysed. Wav files were analysed using Wildlife Acoustics Kaleidoscope Pro software, initially using its automated identification tool, and secondly by manual checking logged calls. Some of the files that had been designated as “Noise” or “No ID” status by the automated software were found to contain bat passes and a few of the files that had been designated as a named species contained recorded bat passes from two or three different species. There were also recordings identified by Kaleidoscope as bat species that, in fact, contained “Noise” recordings.

Calls were cross referenced against sample calls described in Russ (2012), and approximately 200 randomly selected calls from all surveys were subject to independent review by a staff member at Bat Conservation Ireland, thus ensuring a high standard of analysis.

It should be noted that Song Meter Mini Bat sound files record bats passing the detector but the number of bats in the area cannot be determined from these data.

After analysis, bat records from the project were entered into the Bat Conservation Ireland database along with other information taken from the Bat Survey Forms.

COUNTY CAVAN (CAVAN BAT GROUP)

SITE 1: WHITE FATHER'S CAVE

This location near Blacklion is an active cave with a fast-flowing river running through it. It is in a rural area, with pasture, hedgerows, some woodland and scrub and a large prison complex constructed across some of the cave area. It is already a known Daubenton's' bat maternity site.

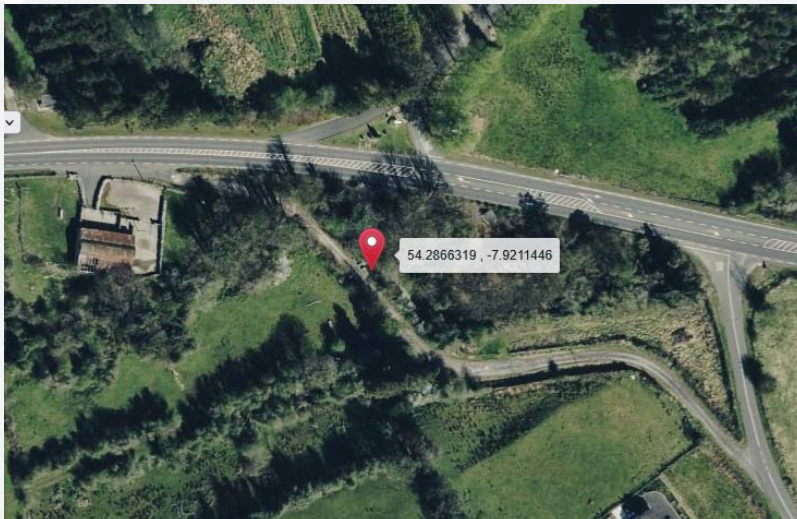


Figure 2: White Father's Cave (courtesy of GridReferenceFinder.com)

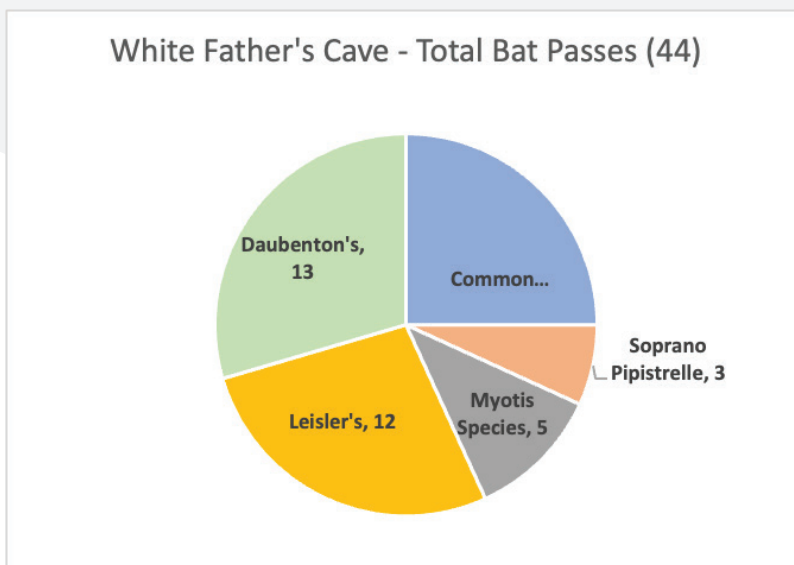


Figure 3: White Father's Cave total bat passes

Daily Bat Pass Counts

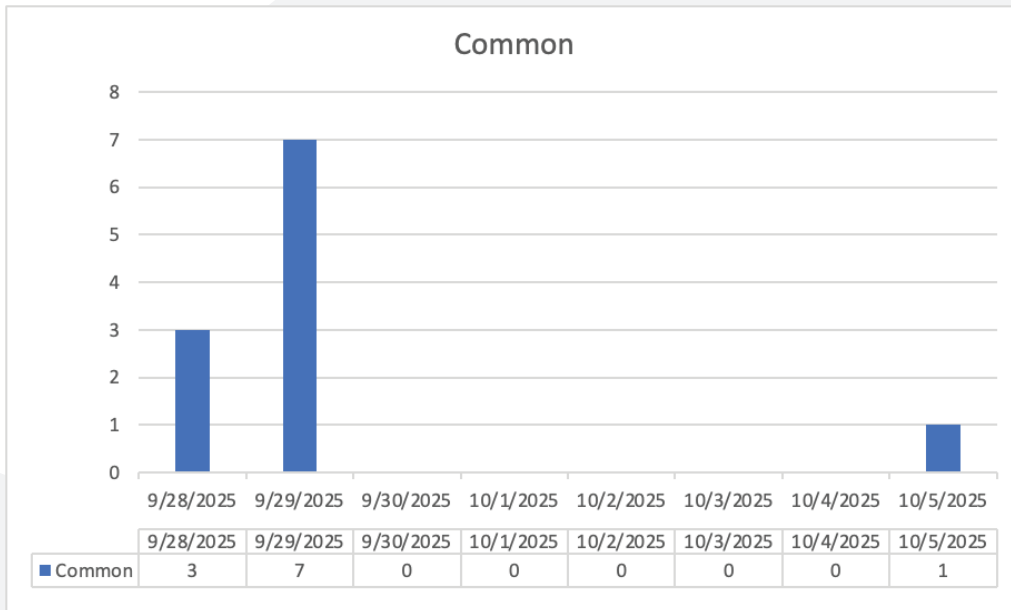


Figure 4: Common Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

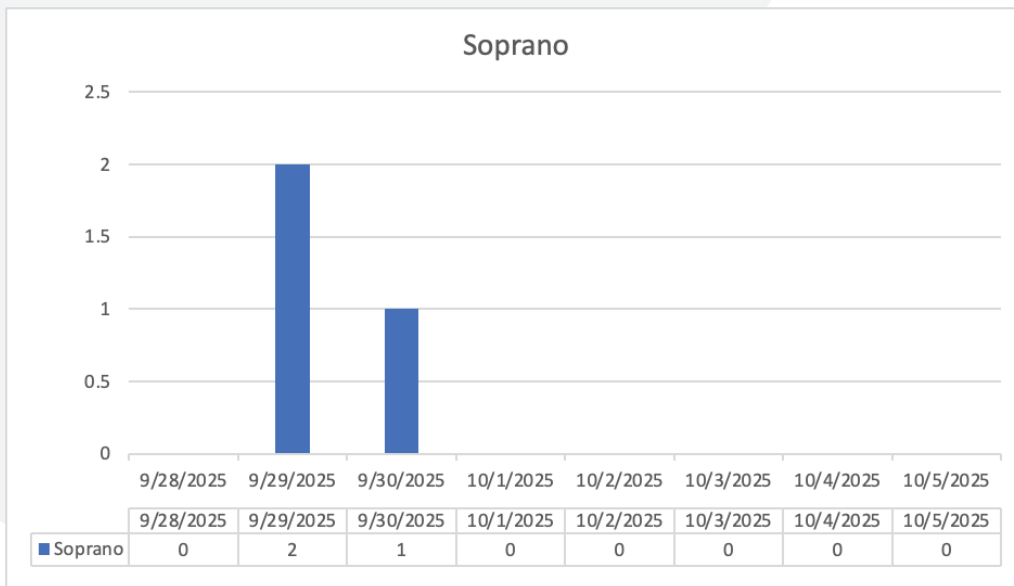


Figure 5: Soprano Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes



Figure 6: Leisler's Daily Bat Passes

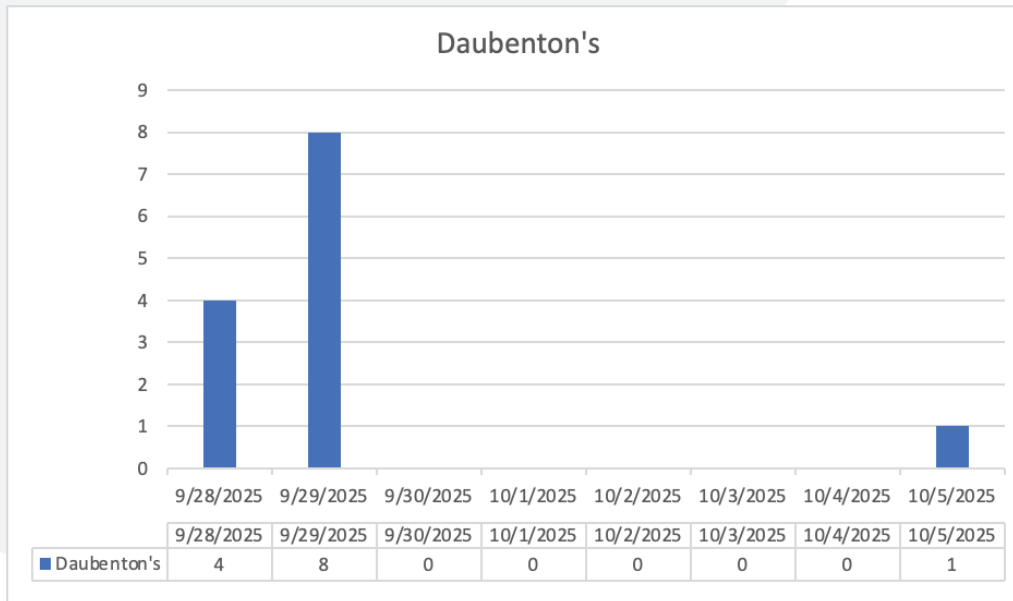


Figure 7: Daubenton's Daily Bat Passes

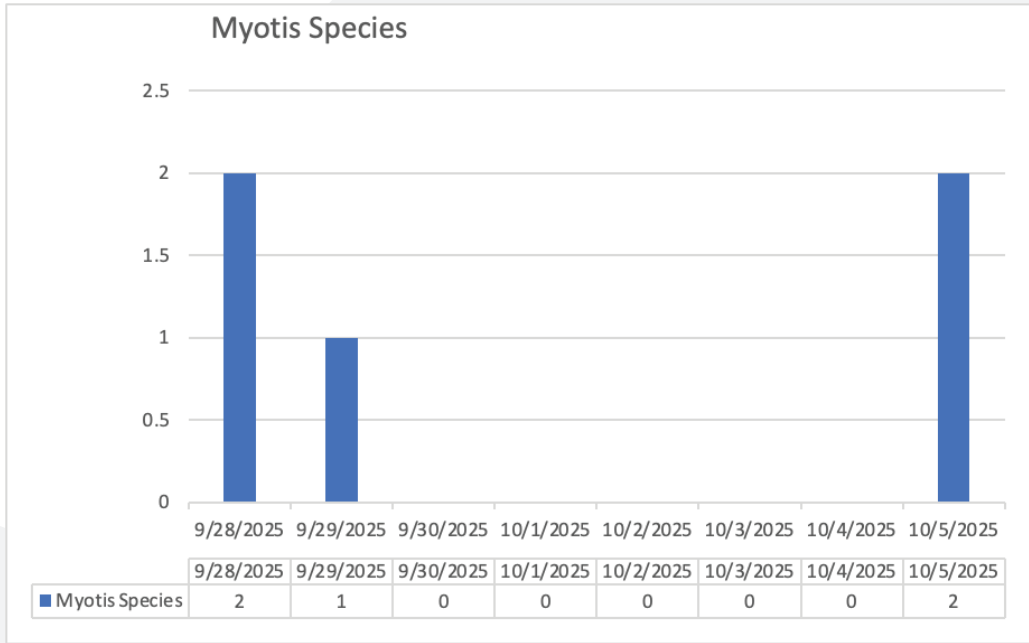


Figure 8: Myotis Species Daily Bat Passes

Hourly Bat Passes

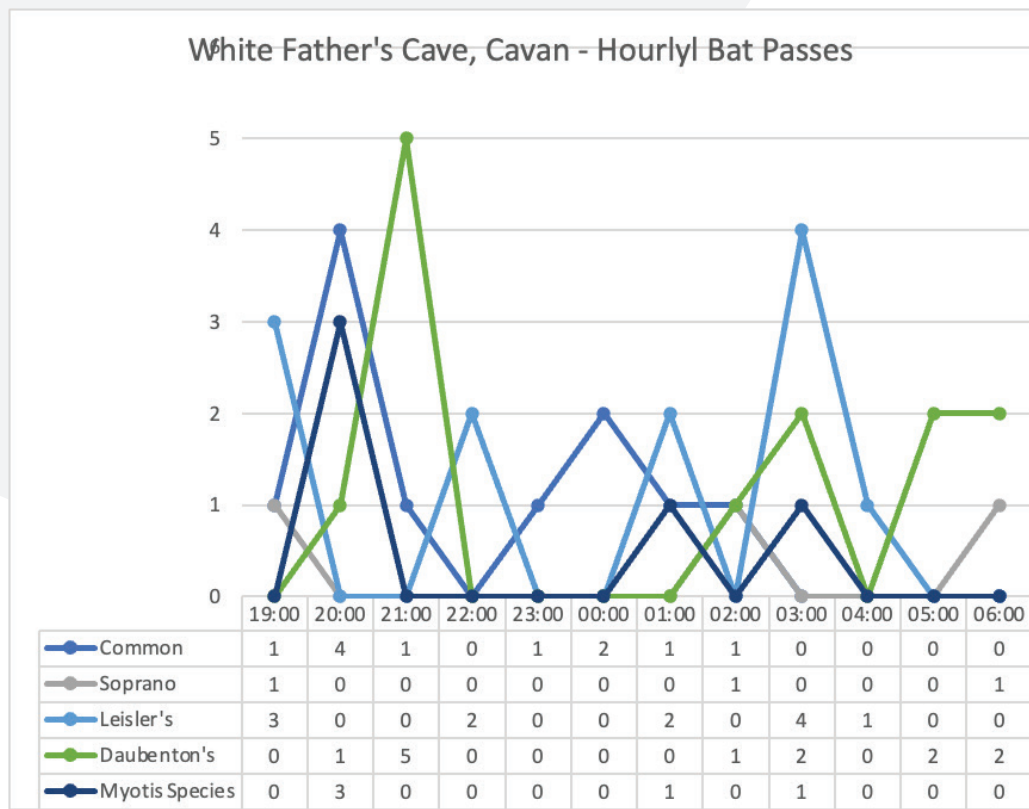


Figure 9: Hourly Bat Passes

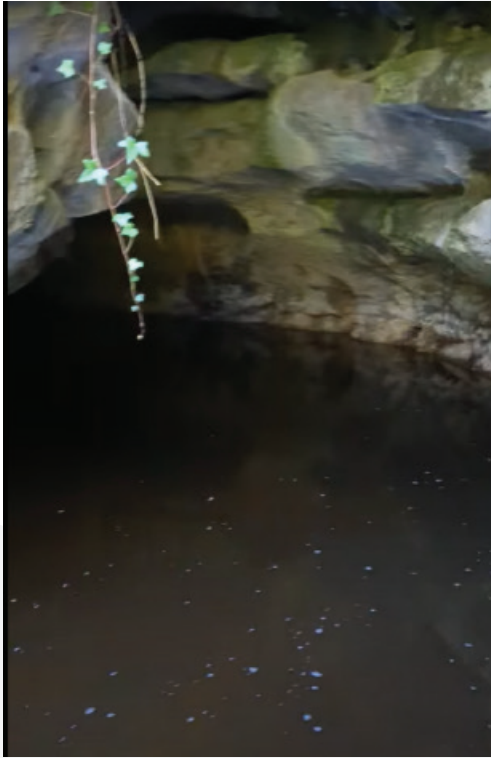


Figure 10: White Father's cave – courtesy of Róisín O'Connor

Summary

The Song Meter Mini Bat was at this location from 28/09/2025 to 05/10/2025. Weather conditions in late September and early October were reasonably settled although rainfall levels were high in early October and temperatures at this time also significantly exceeded the long-term average at Met Eireann's Finner weather station in nearby Donegal (information from Met.ie).

The detector was placed at the mouth of White Father's Cave. Overall bat detections were very low with only four species out of a possible eight identified. There were only 44 bat passes detected with five of those being identified as *Myotis* species.

It would be interesting to place a detector here in bat season to ascertain how many bats are active during the spring and summer months.

SITE 2: CAVE IN THE CAVAN BURREN



Figure 11: The Burren, County Cavan – courtesy of Irish.gridreferencefinder.com



Figure 12: Cave Entrance in Cavan Burren, courtesy of Róisín O’Connail

Summary

The Song Meter Mini Bat was at this location from 15/10/2025 to 30/10/2025. It was placed at the mouth of a cave at Cavan Burren. Despite ideal habitat in the vicinity of the cave with considerable broadleaved woodland, there were no bat passes detected at this location.

COUNTY KILDARE (KILDARE BAT GROUP)

SITE 1: HILL OF ALLEN TOWER

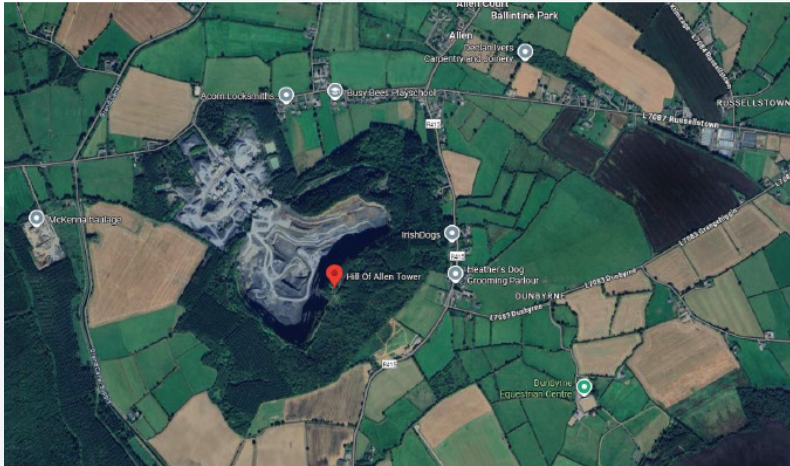


Figure 13: Hill of Allen Tower, courtesy of irish.gridreferencefinder.com

The Hill of Allen is a culturally important location and a volcanic hill located within a network of raised bogs and agricultural land. The profile of the hill has been considerably modified by quarrying as can be seen in the image above.

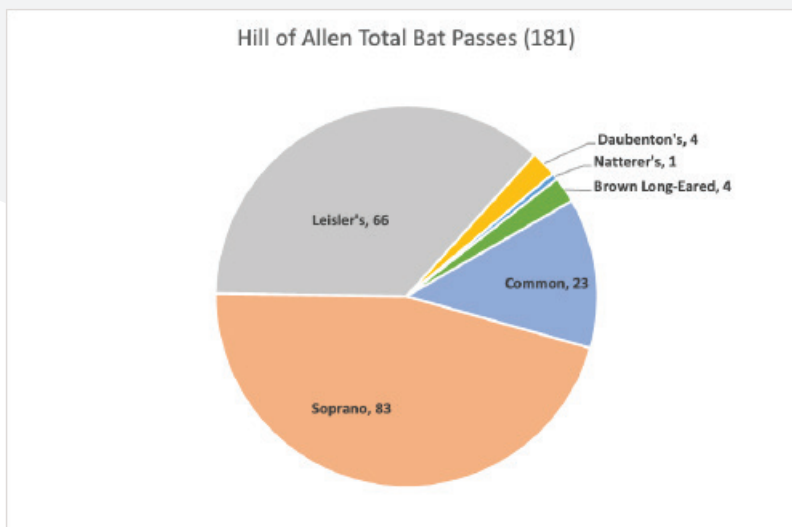


Figure 14: Hill of Allen Tower Total Bat Passes

Daily Bat Pass Counts

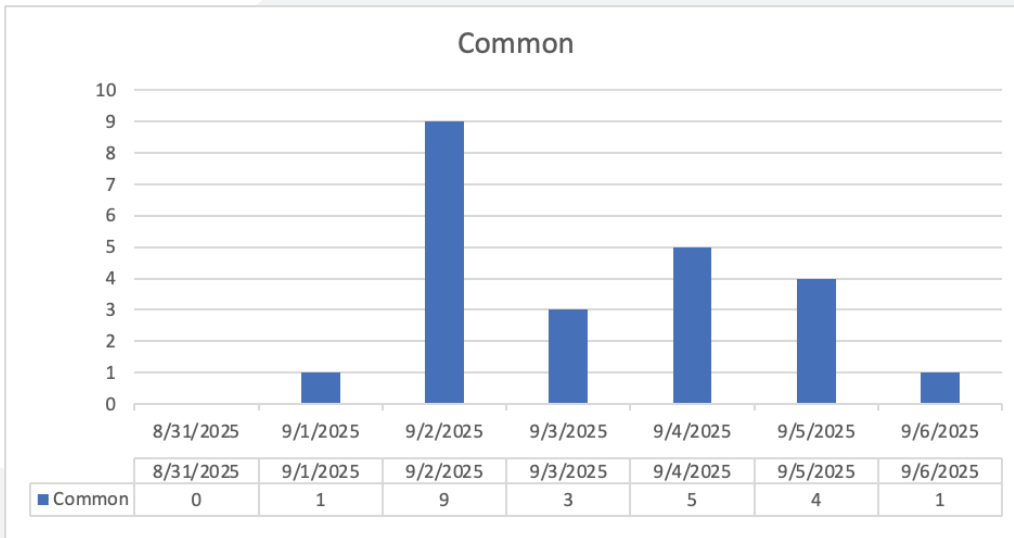


Figure 15: Common Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

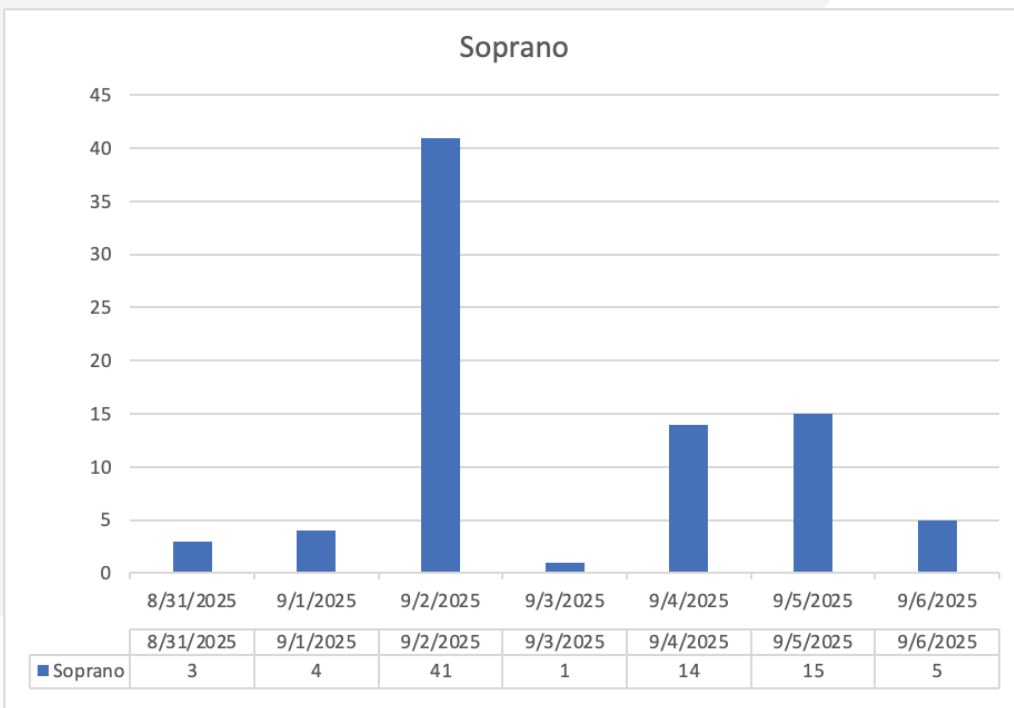


Figure 16: Soprano Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

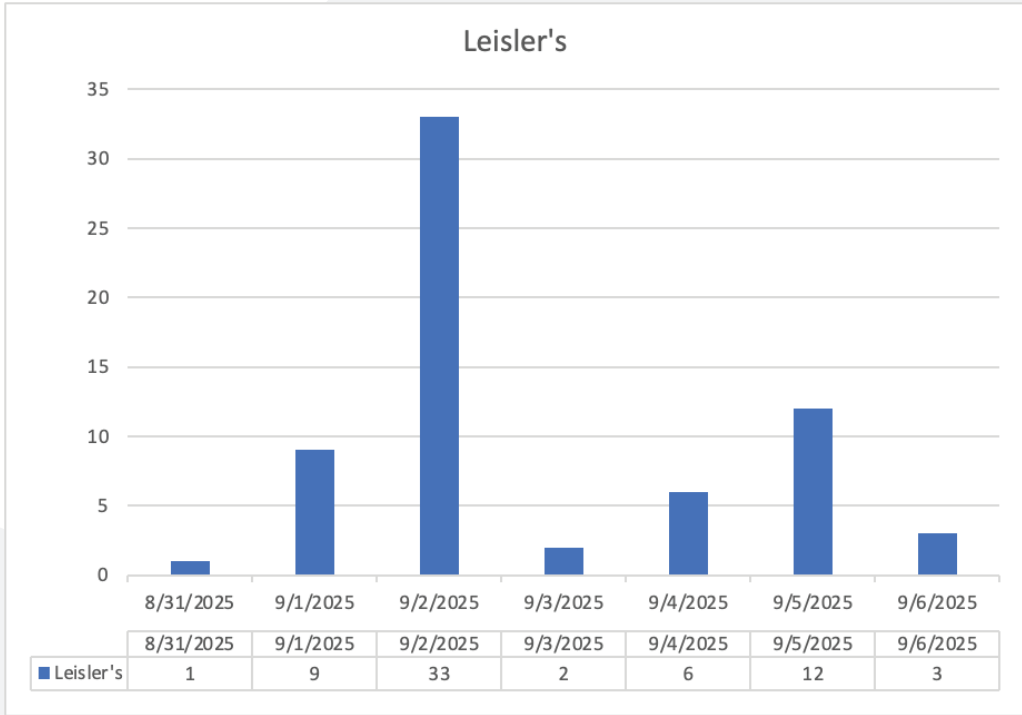


Figure 17: Leisler's Daily Bat Passes

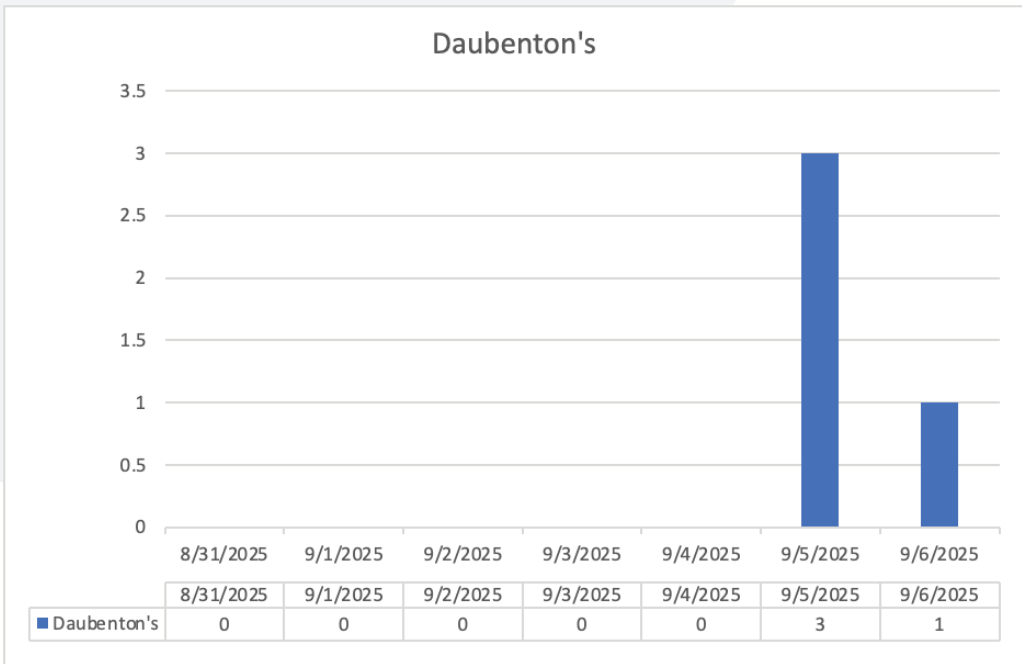


Figure 18: Daubenton's Daily Bat Passes

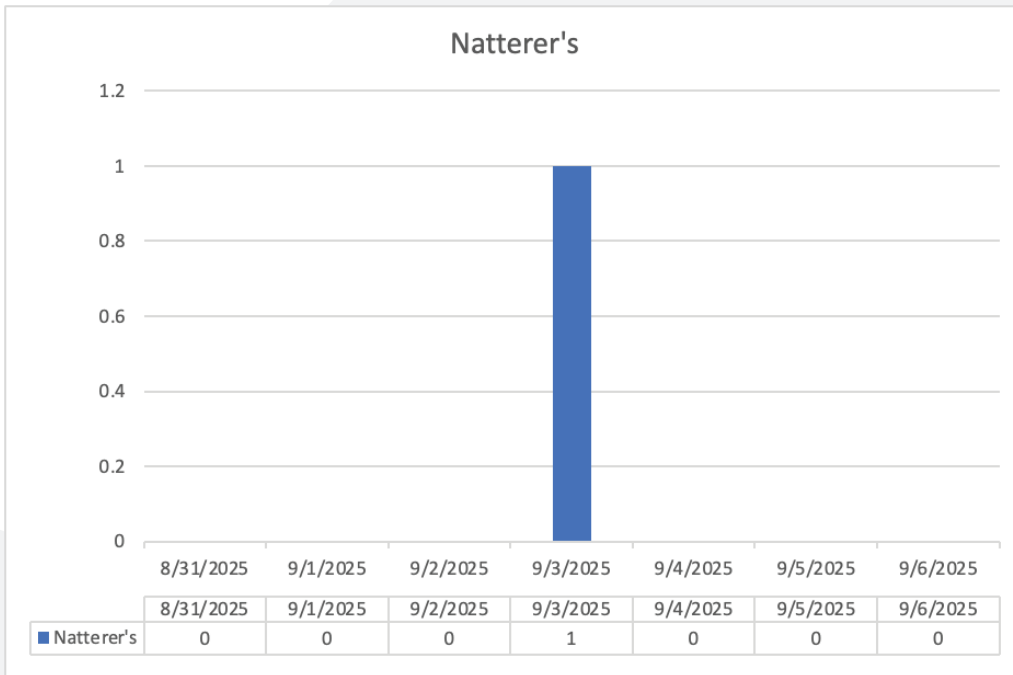


Figure 19: Natterer's Daily Bat Passes

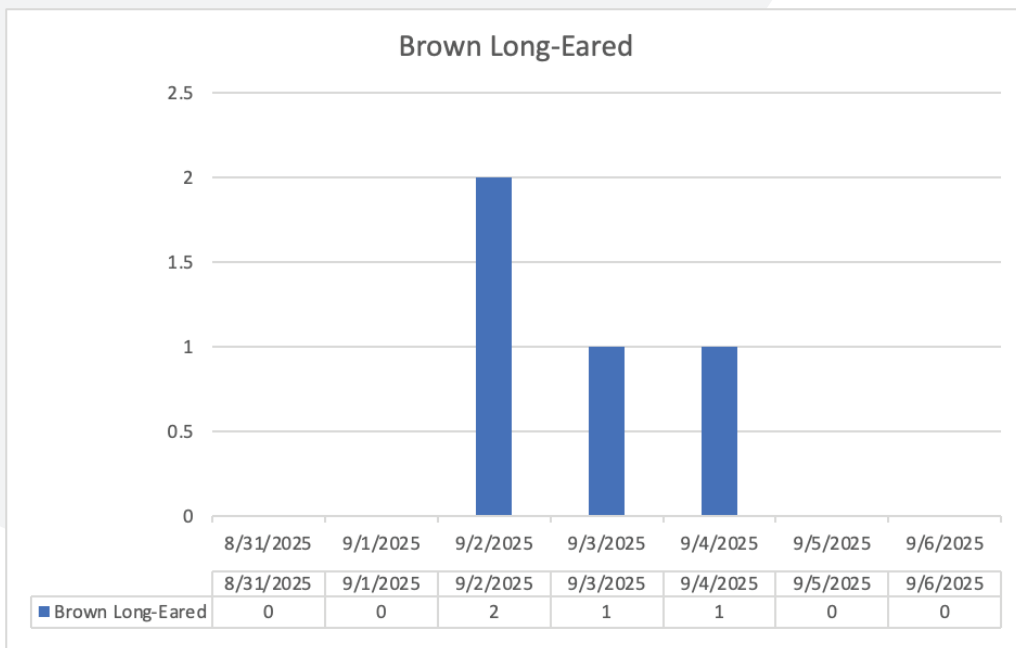


Figure 20: Brown Long-eared Daily Bat Passes

Hourly Bat Passes

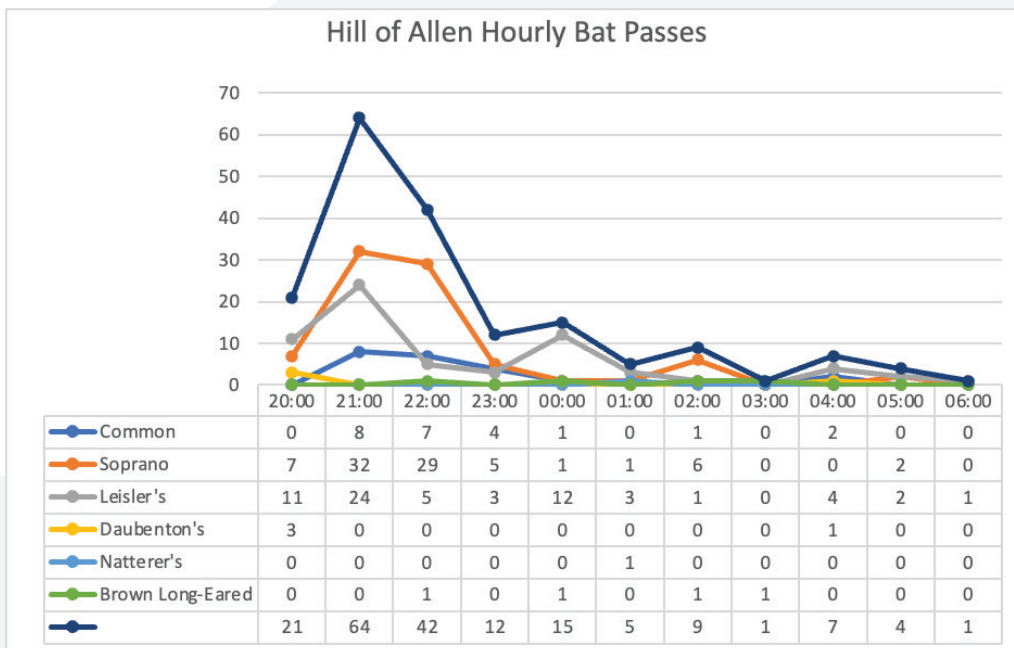


Figure 21: Hourly Bat Passes



Figure 22: Hill of Allen tower, courtesy of Vanessa Mack



Figure 23: Song Meter location at Hill of Allen courtesy of Vanessa Mack

Summary

The Song Meter Mini Bat was at this location from 31/08/2025 to 05/09/2025. Weather conditions during this time showed high rainfall on September 3rd and temperatures mostly around average but significantly exceeding the Long-Term Average towards the end of the deployment from September 5th to 7th (weather information from Casement Aerodrome, met.ie).

The species with the most passes was the Soprano Pipistrelle with 83 passes, then the next most abundant were Leisler's Bats with 66 passes. Very few Myotis species were apparent with only four Daubenton's and one Natterer's bat being identified. There were no Nathusius' or Whiskered bat passes recorded at this location. This may be due to the remote location of the Song Meter Mini Bat detector.

Site 2: Ballyteague (Ballyteige) Castle, Kildare



Figure 24: Ballyteague Castle, County Kildare -courtesy of irish.gridreferencefinder.com

Ballyteague Castle is a mock-Norman keep, which was built as a folly in the 19th Century (see buildingsofireland.ie). The folly retains much of its original character and features, and materials such as the parapet and slate roof are important survivals.

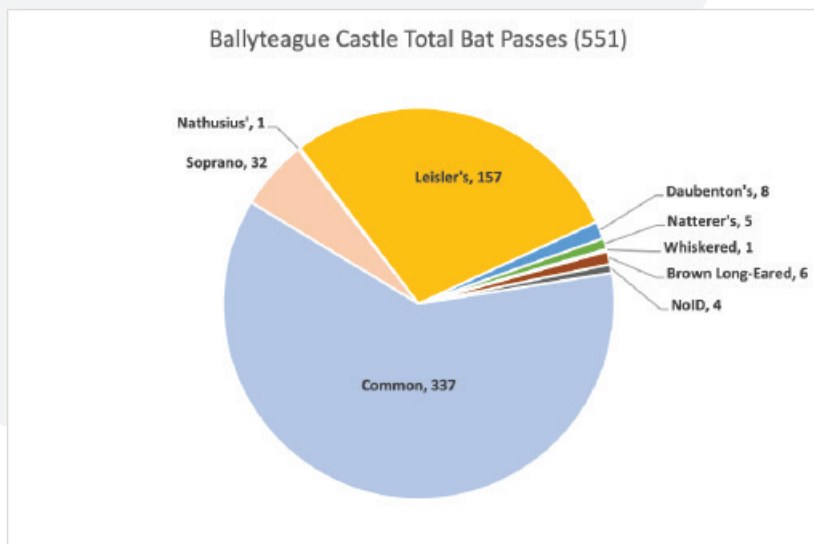


Figure 25: Ballyteague Castle: Total Bat Passes

Daily Bat Pass Counts

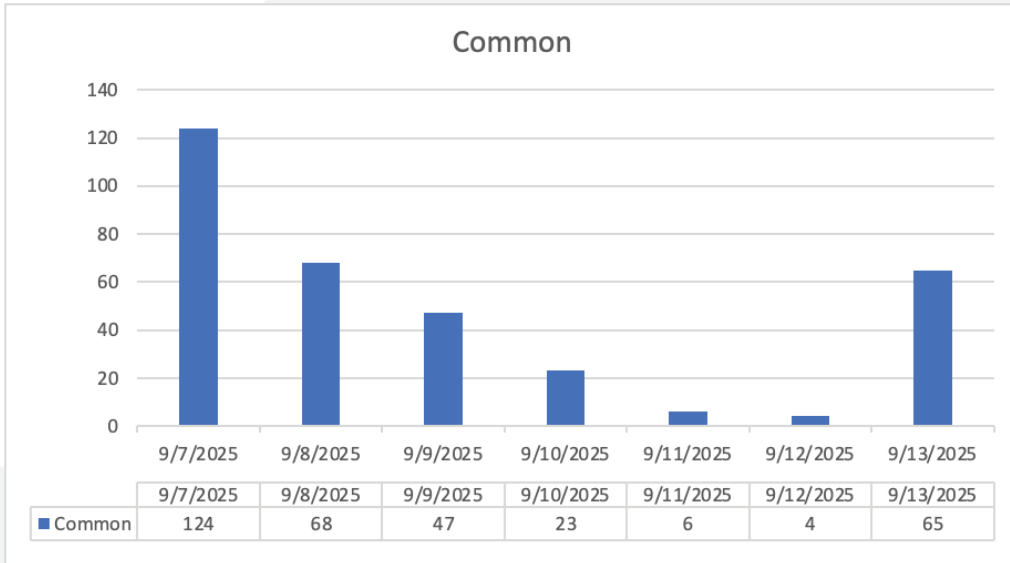


Figure 26: Common Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

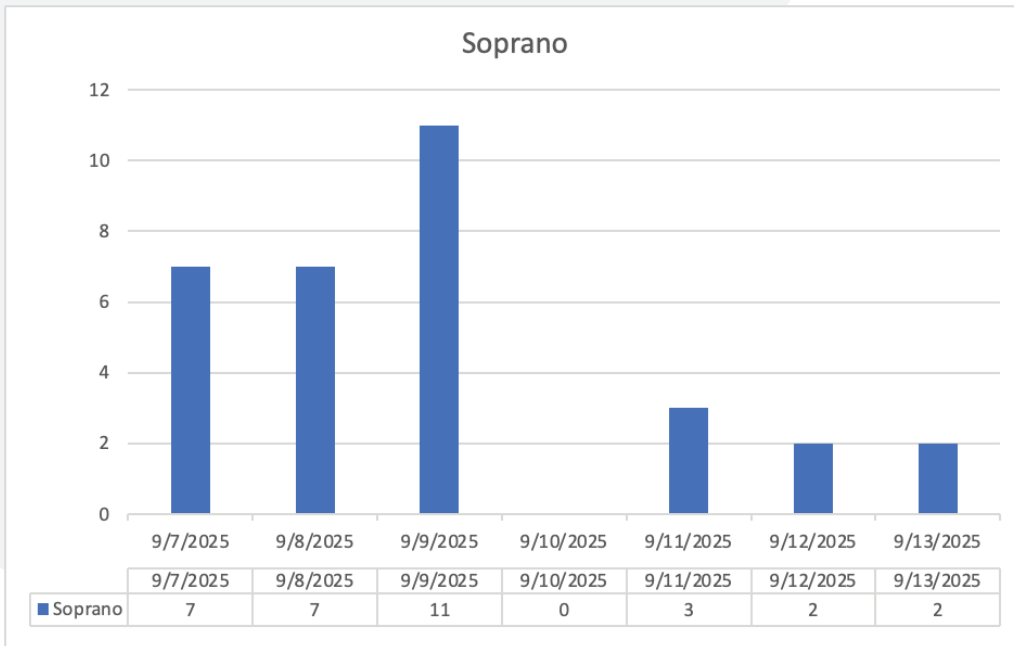


Figure 27: Soprano Daily Bat Passes

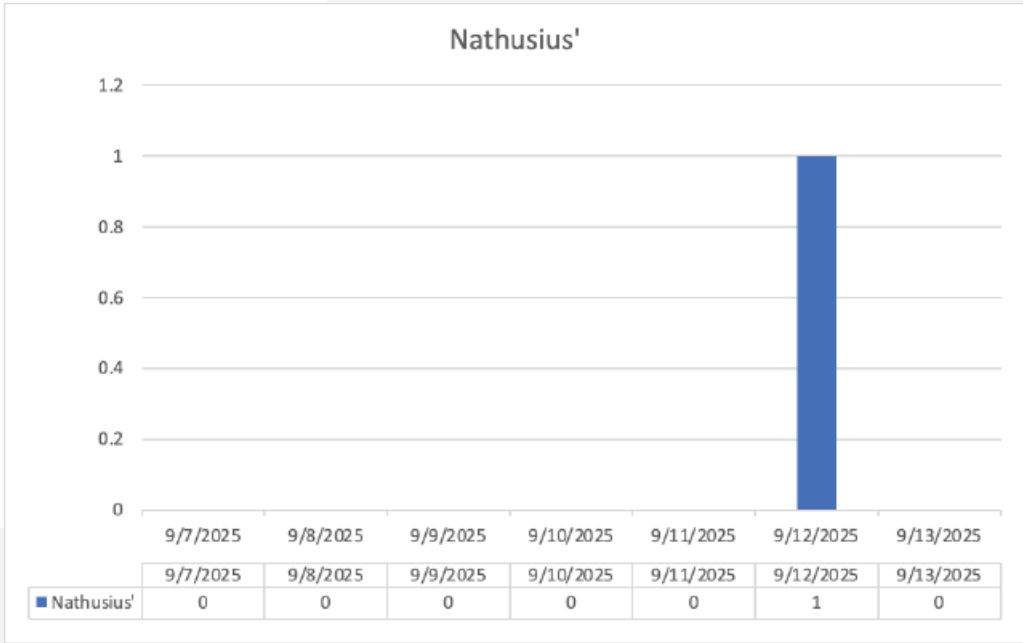


Figure 28: Nathusius' Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

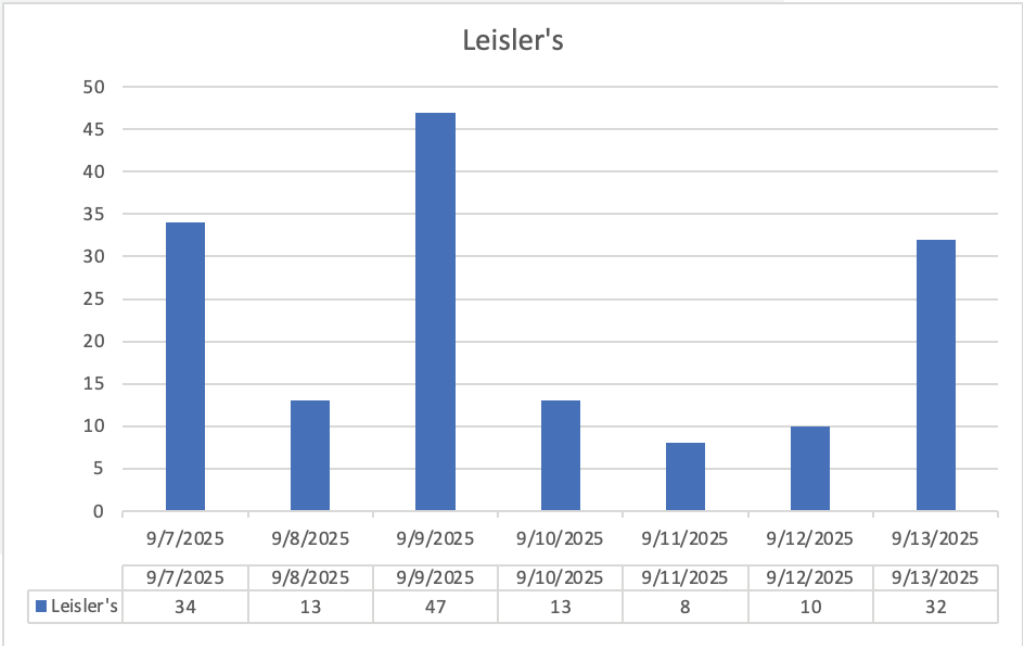


Figure 29: Leisler's Daily Bat Passes

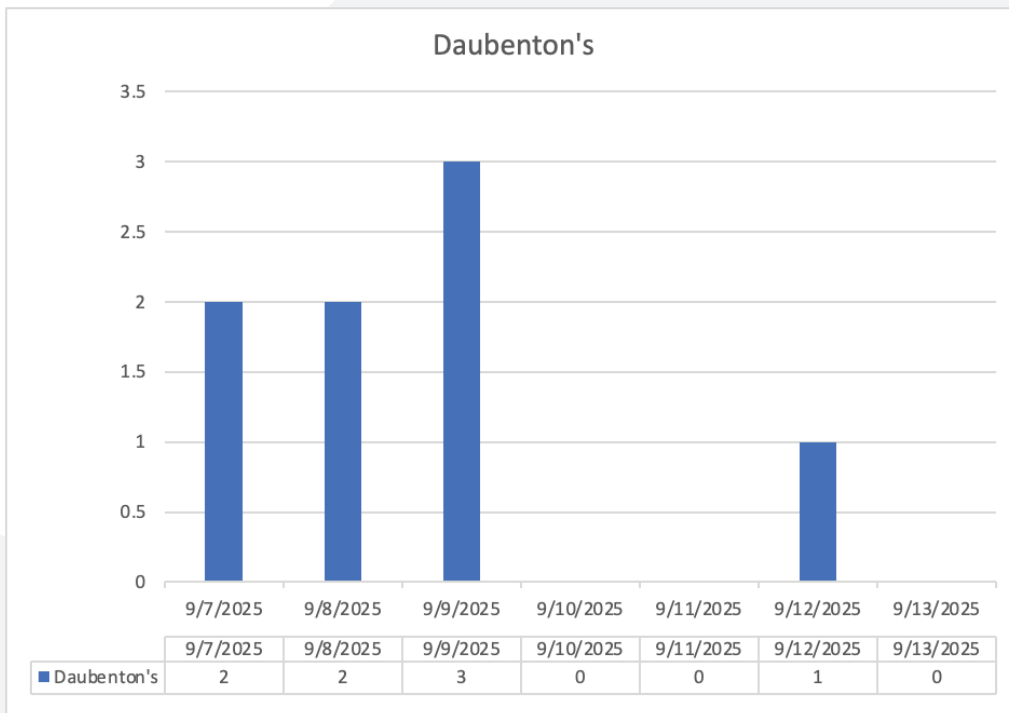


Figure 30: Daubenton's Daily Bat Passes



Figure 31: Whiskered Daily Bat Passes

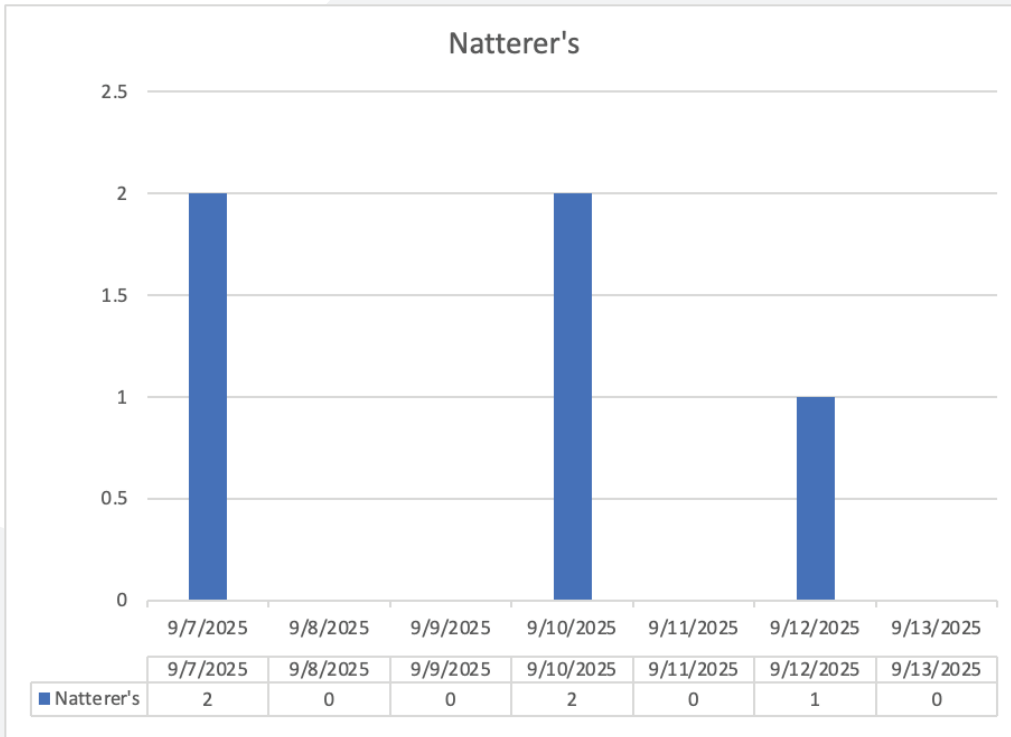


Figure 32: Natterer's Daily Bat Passes

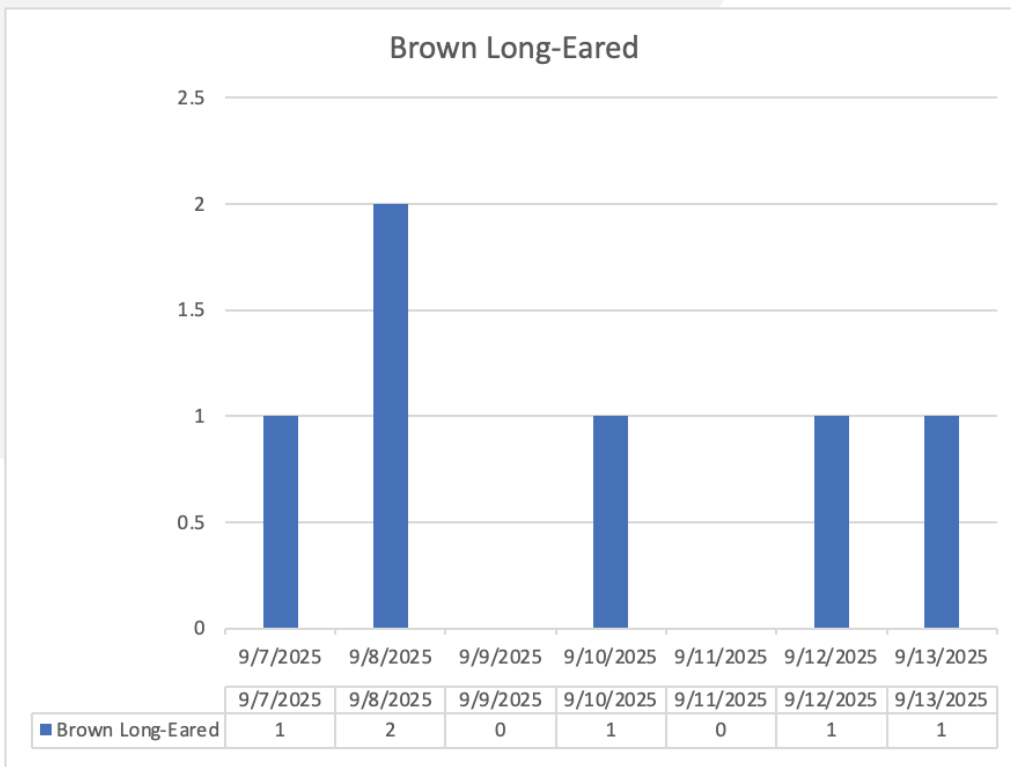


Figure 33: Brown long-eared Daily Bat Passes

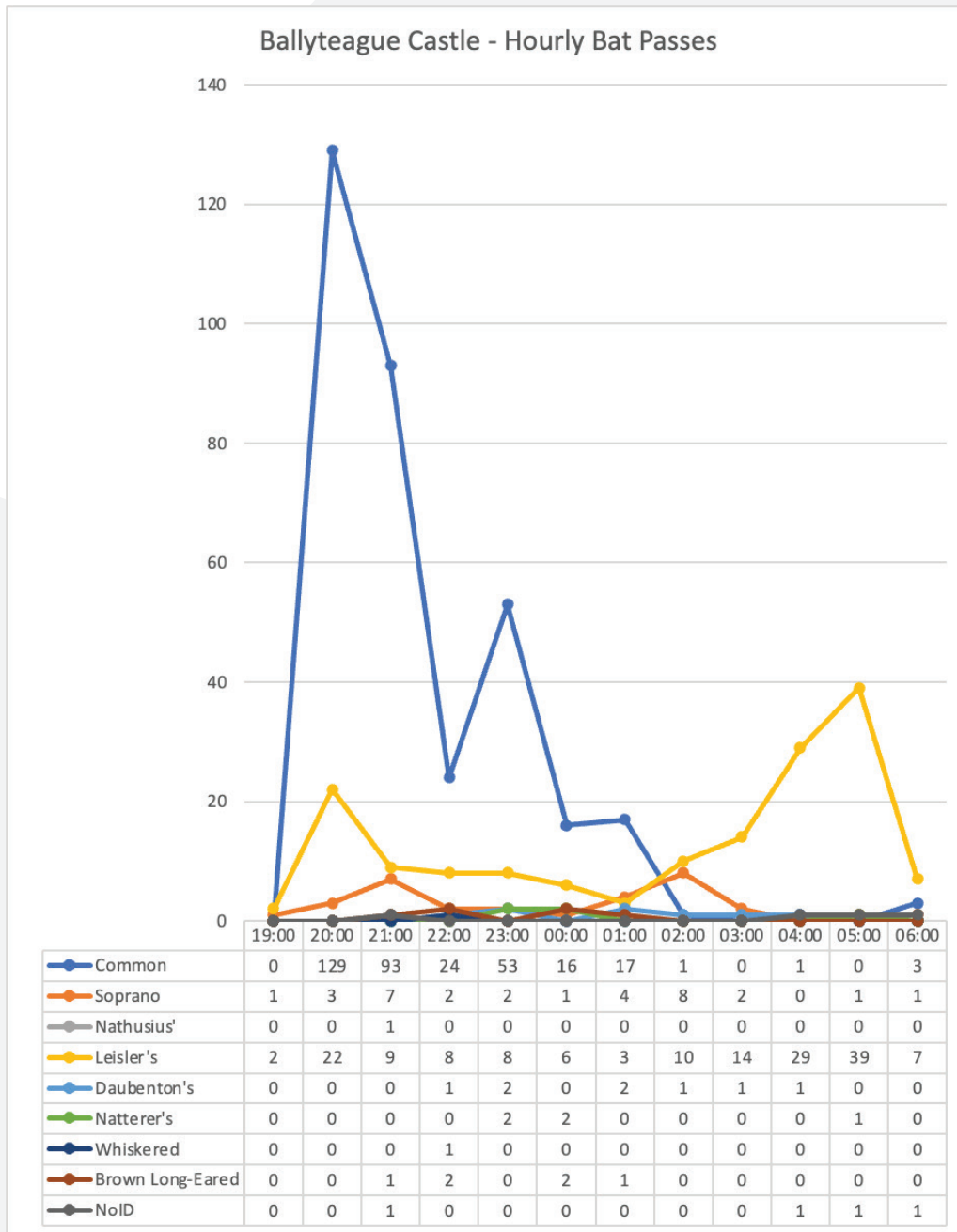


Figure 34: Ballyteague Castle Hourly Bat Passes



Figure 35: Ballyteague Castle showing the canal in the foreground, courtesy of Vanessa Mack



Figure 36: Song Meter being secured courtesy of Vanessa Mack

Summary

The Song Meter Mini Bat was at this location from 07/09/2025 to 13/09/2025. Weather conditions during deployment were initially milder than average but then cooled to below average for the second half of the deployment period. There was moderate rainfall on most days of the deployment (information derived from met.ie).

The Ballyteague Castle location produced 551 total bat passes. All of the eight possible species were identified; Common Pipistrelles were the most numerous with 337 passes and it is possible that there is a roost of this species in the locality. Leisler's bats had the next highest pass count with 157. 32 Soprano Pipistrelles were identified with Myotis and Brown Long-Eared accounting for a very small number of identified passes, despite the proximity of the canal.



Myotis mystacinus bat. Photograph by Gilles San Martin. CC by SA 2.0

COUNTY LIMERICK (LIMERICK BAT GROUP)

SITE 1 CAHERDAVIN, COUNTY LIMERICK

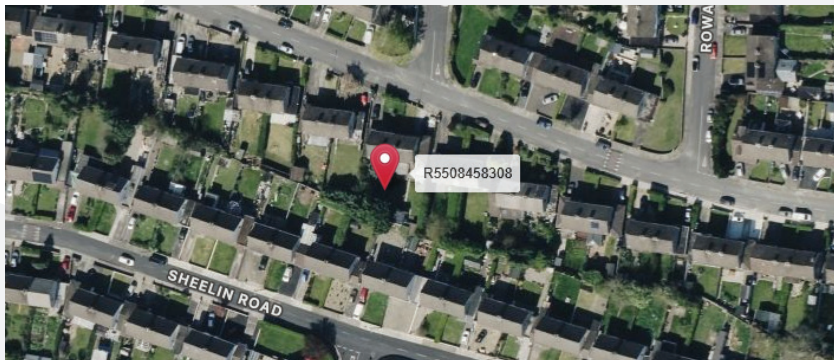


Figure 37: Caherdavin County Limerick – courtesy of irish.gridreferencefinder.com

This site is a very urban area with housing and mature gardens. Caherdavin is situated on the outskirts of Limerick City with fields immediately west of the suburb and the River Shannon approximately 1km to the south.

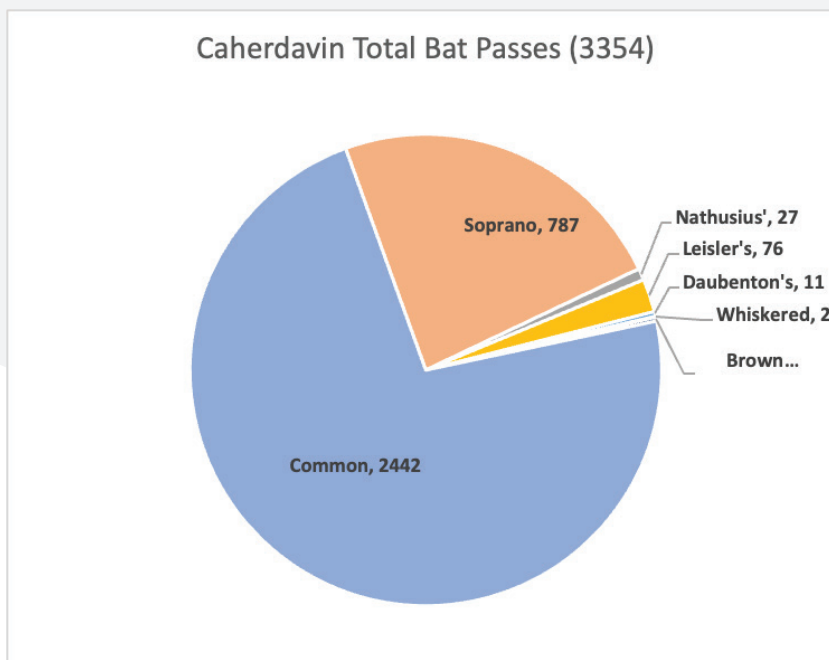


Figure 38: Caherdavin Total Bat Passes

Daily Bat Pass Counts

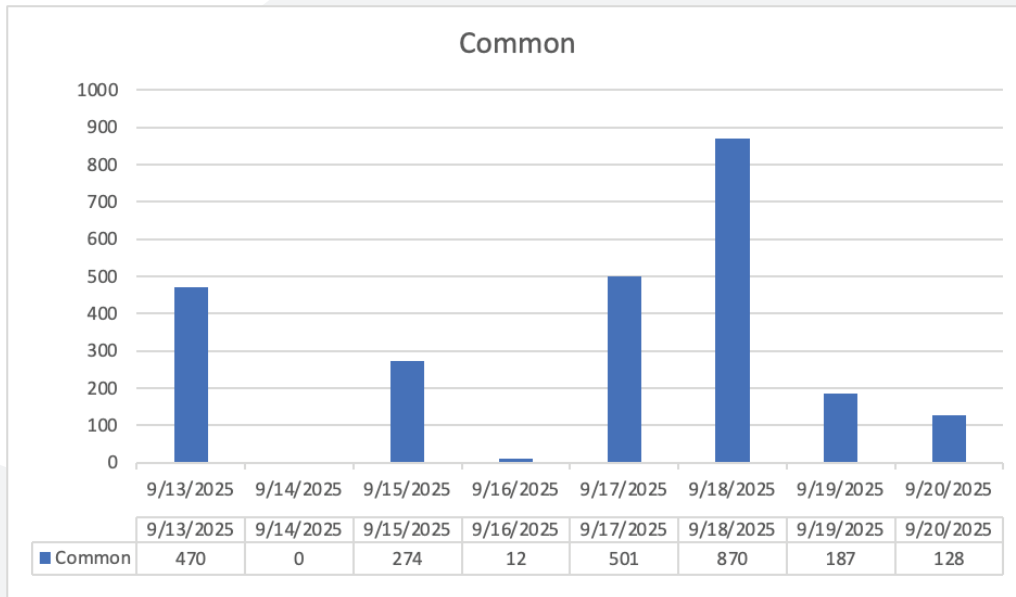


Figure 39: Common Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

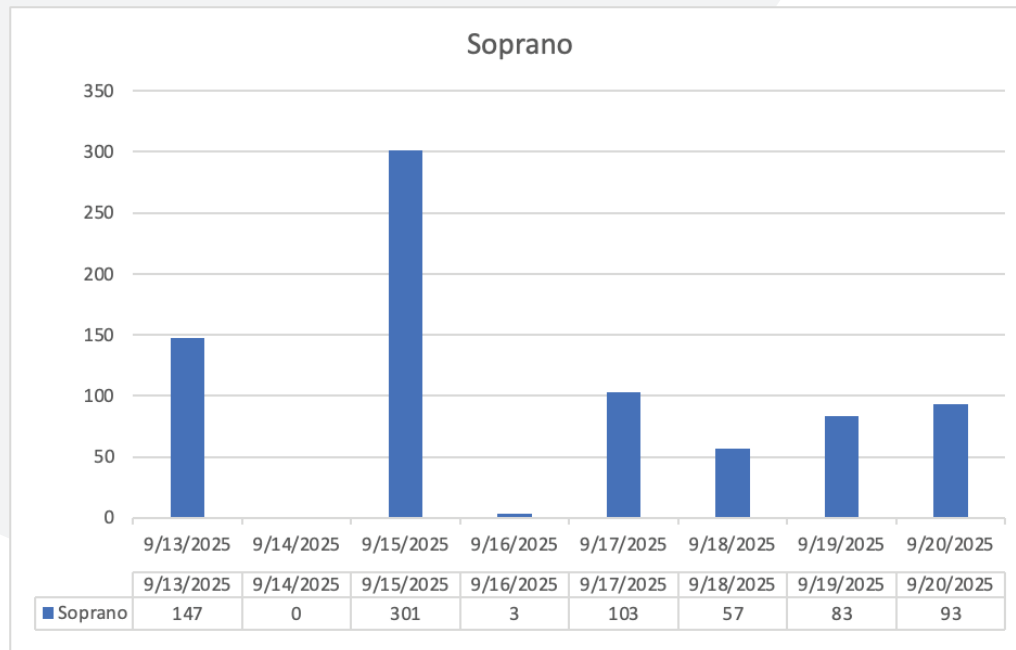


Figure 40: Soprano Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

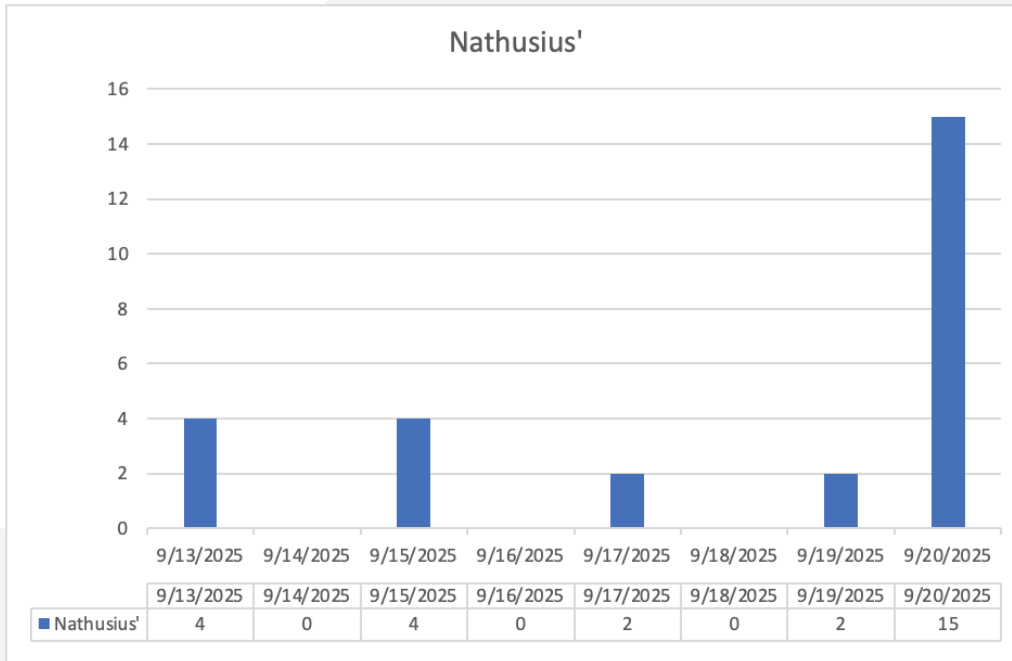


Figure 41: Nathusius' Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

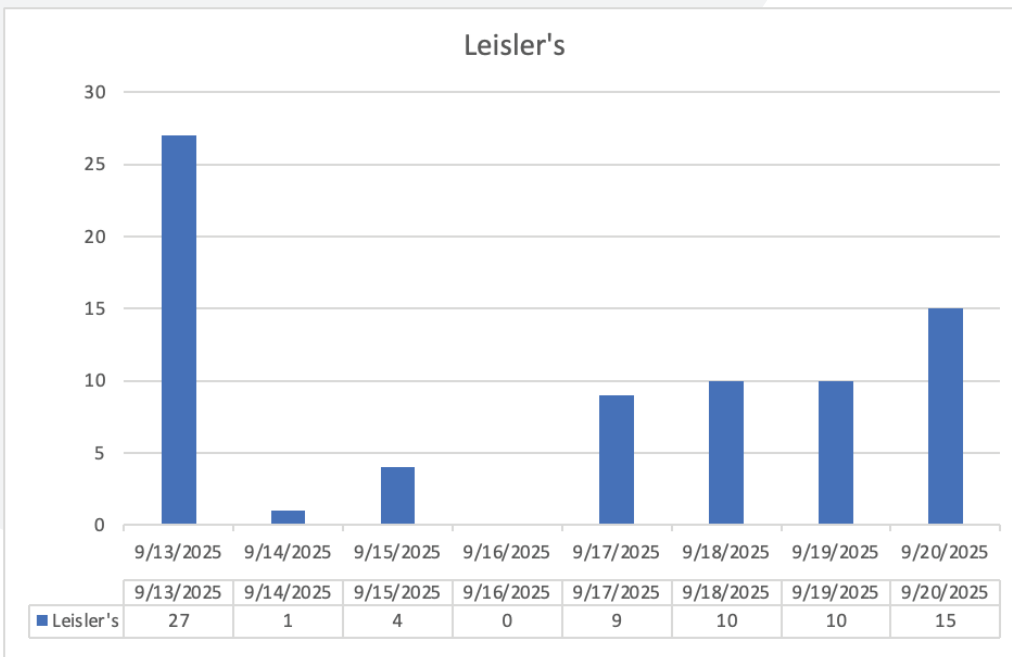


Figure 42: Leisler's Daily Bat Passes

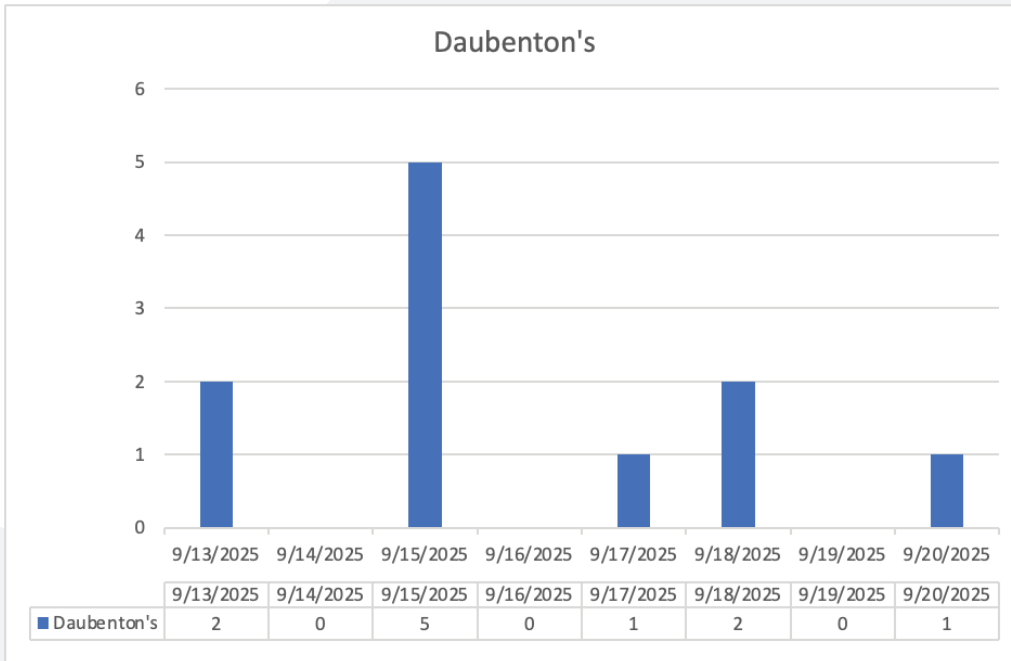


Figure 43: Daubenton's Daily Bat Passes

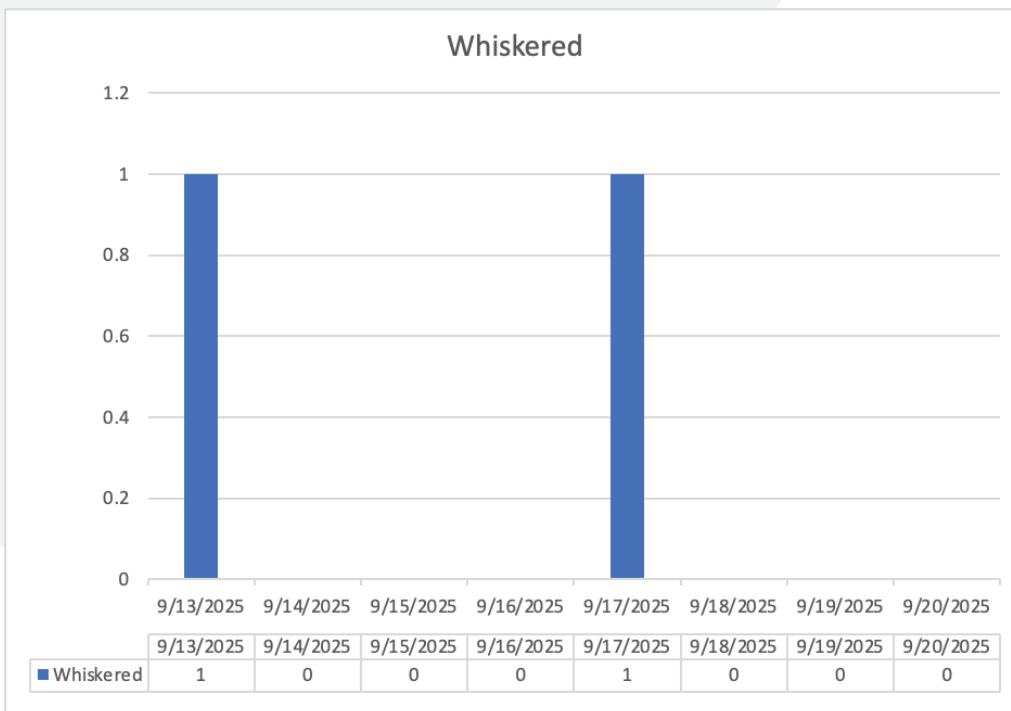


Figure 44: Whiskered Bat Daily Bat Passes

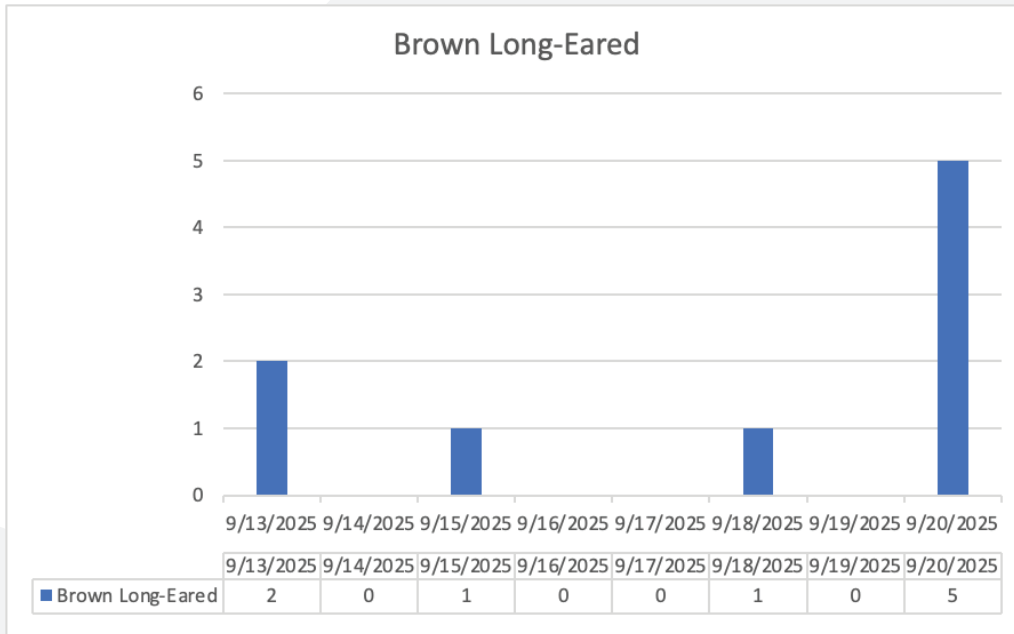


Figure 45: Brown Long-eared Bat Daily Bat Passes



Myotis nattereri bat. Photograph by Gilles San Martin. CC by SA 2.0

Hourly Bat Passes

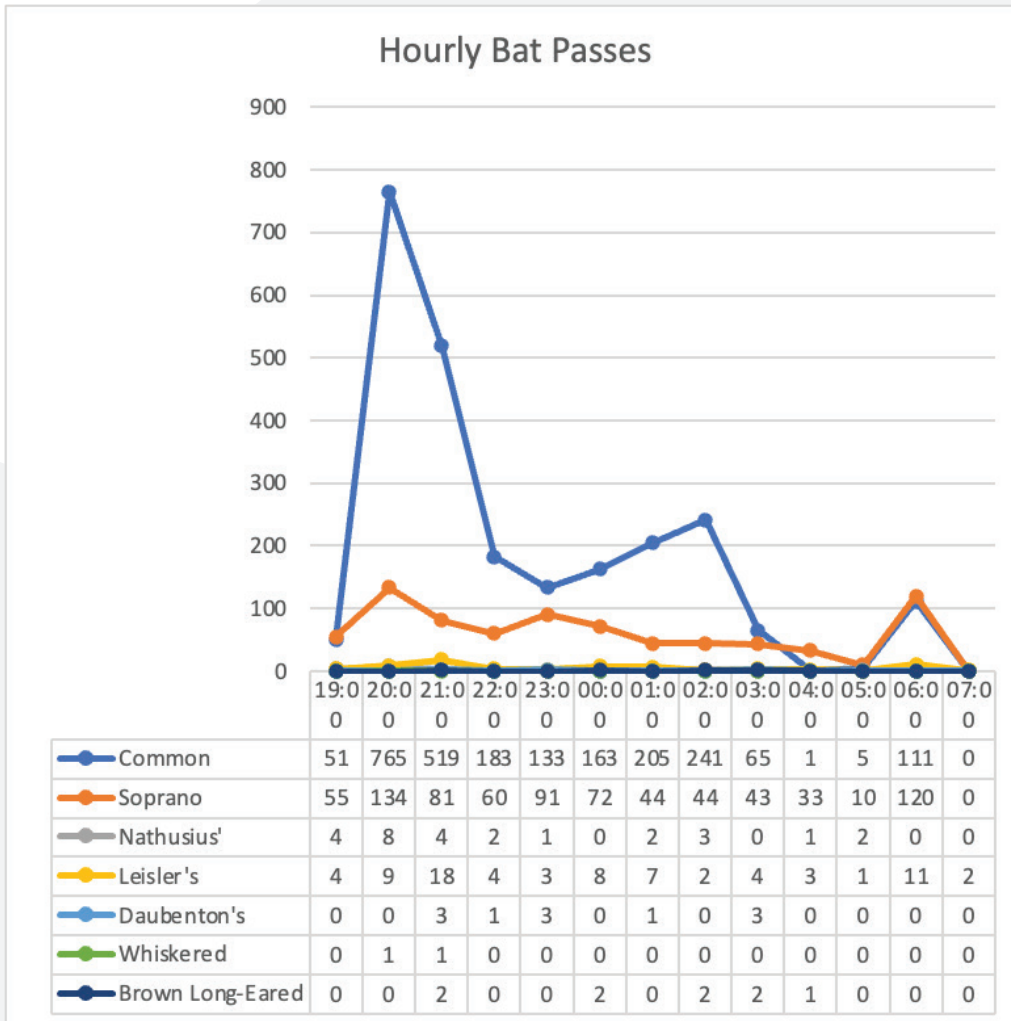


Figure 46: Hourly Bat Passes

Summary

The Song Meter Mini Bat was deployed at Caherdavin, Limerick City, from 13/09/2025 to 20/09/2025. Weather during the deployment was cool at the start and the end, but temperatures were significantly above the long-term average in the middle. Some rainfall was recorded on most days of deployment with high levels on September 16th (weather information from met.ie).

Seven out of a possible nine species were recorded at this location. During this time, despite the late season and urban situation, 3354 bat passes were

recorded. The most prolific were Common Pipistrelles with 2442 passes. This suggests that there may be a roost nearby. Soprano Pipistrelles accounted for 787 bat passes with 76 being identified as Leisler's bats. Brown Long-Eared, Daubenton's and Whiskered bats were very scarce with only a few passes each. This area is dense with buildings, so the results are logical, with the most adaptable bats being the most prolific.

SITE 2: MEADOWBROOK, CORBALLY



Figure 47: Meadowbrook Corbally Location - courtesy of irish.gridreferencefinder.com

Meadowbrook Corbally is housing development in Limerick City situated in a bend in the River Shannon. The estate is surrounded by green space including sports fields, school grounds and some fields and scrub lining the banks of the Shannon. The detector was placed in a green in the centre of the housing estate.

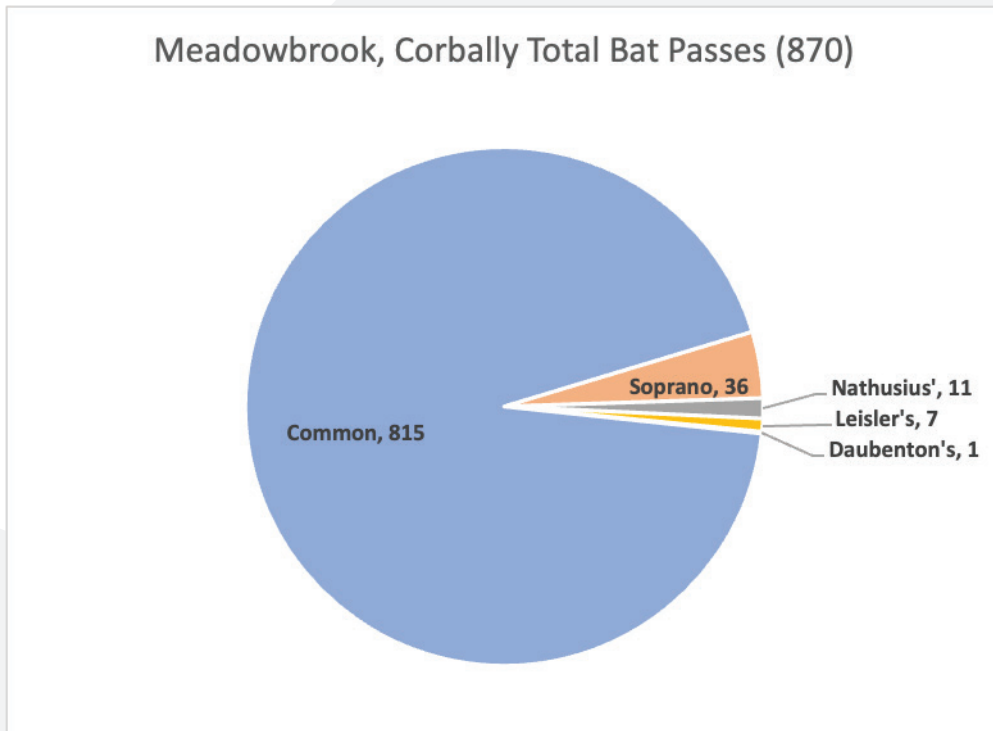


Figure 48: Meadowbrook, Corbally Total Bat Passes

Daily Bat Pass Count

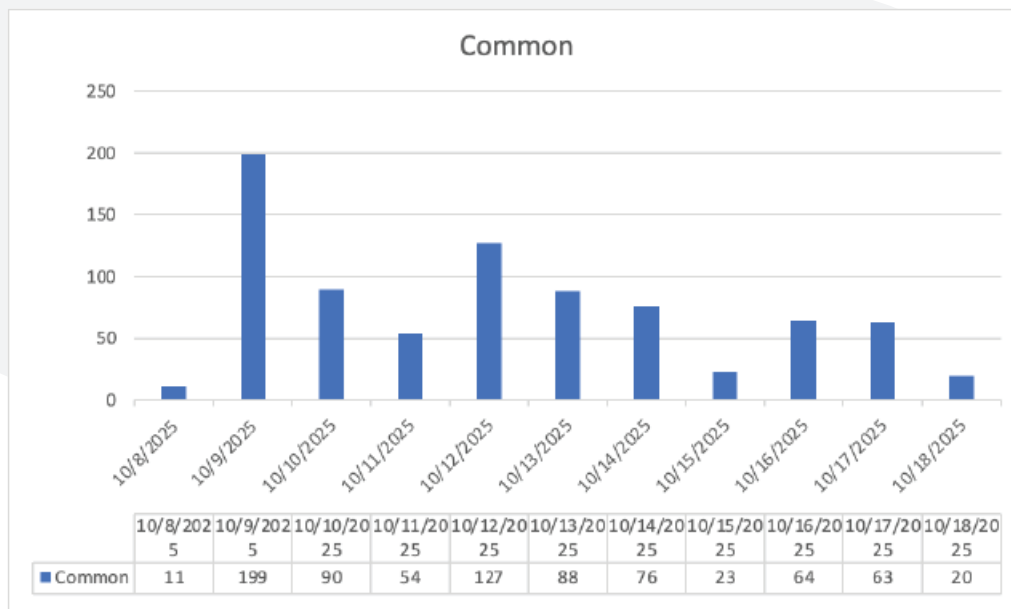


Figure 49: Common Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

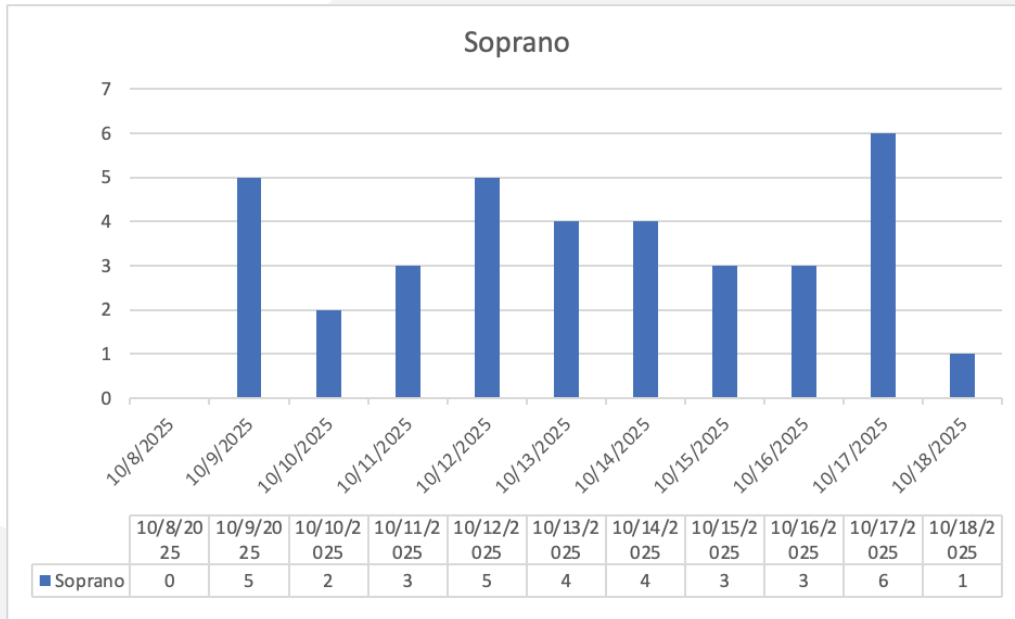


Figure 50: Soprano Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

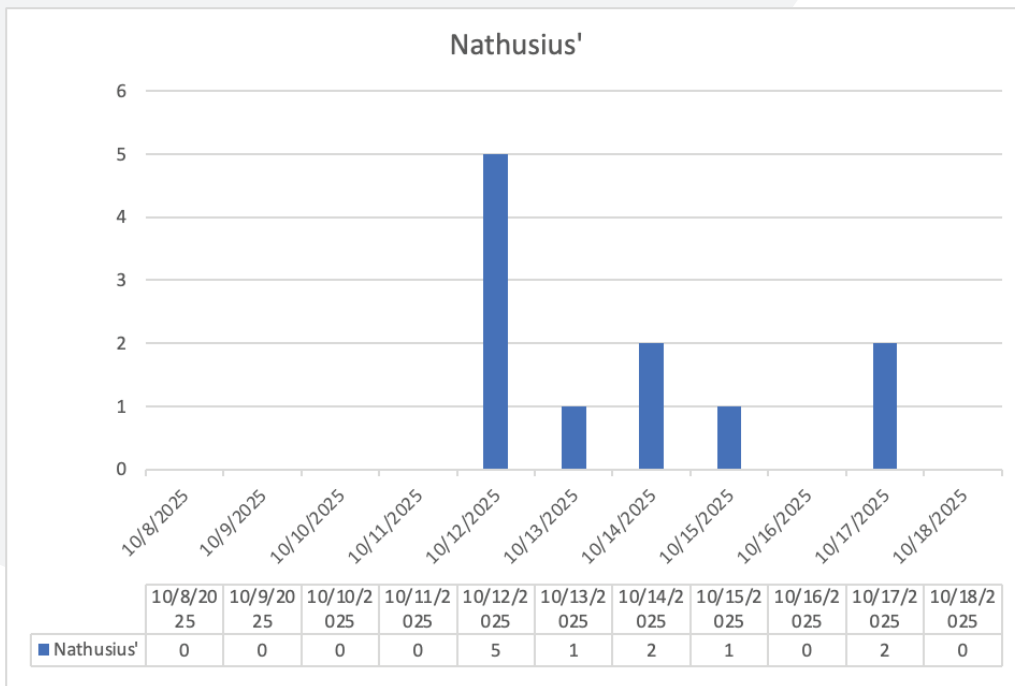


Figure 51: Nathusius' pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

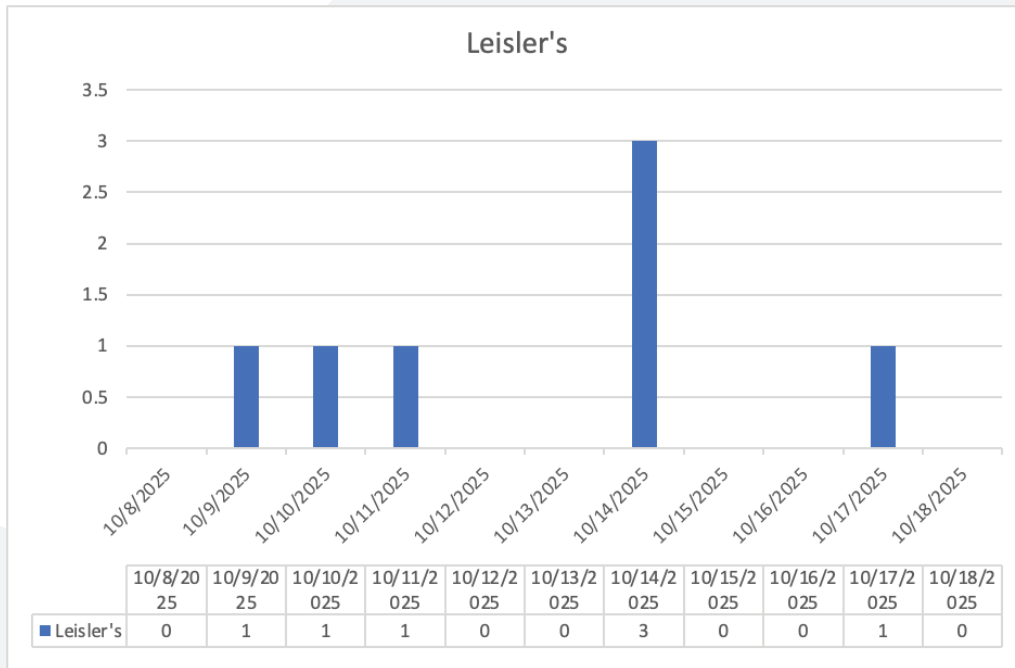


Figure 52: Leisler's Daily Bat Passes

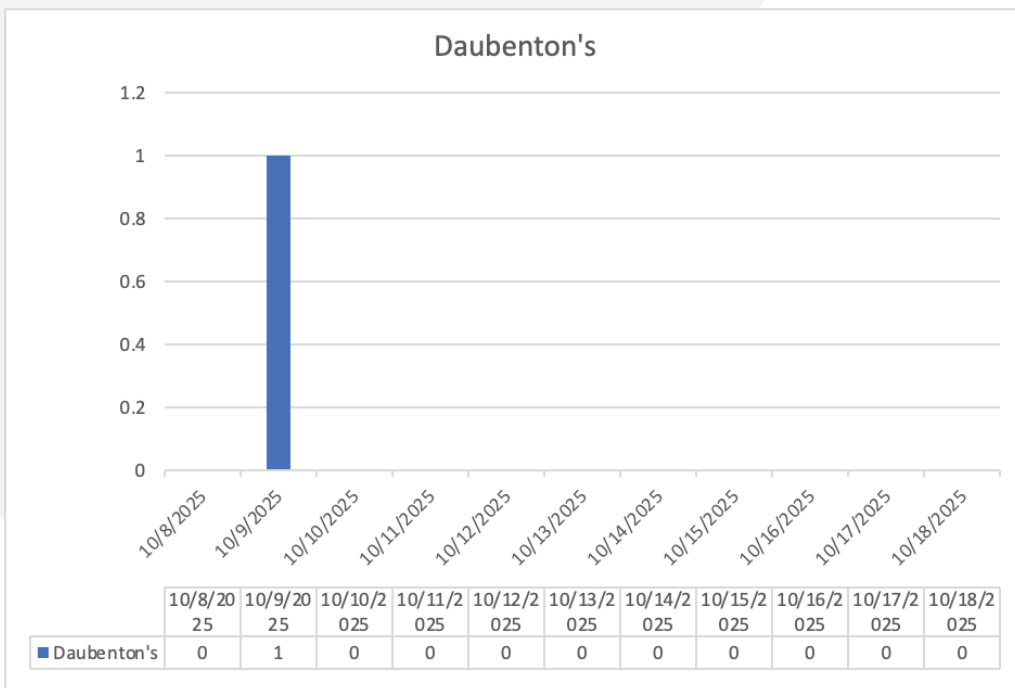


Figure 53: Daubenton's Daily Bat Passes

Hourly Bat Passes

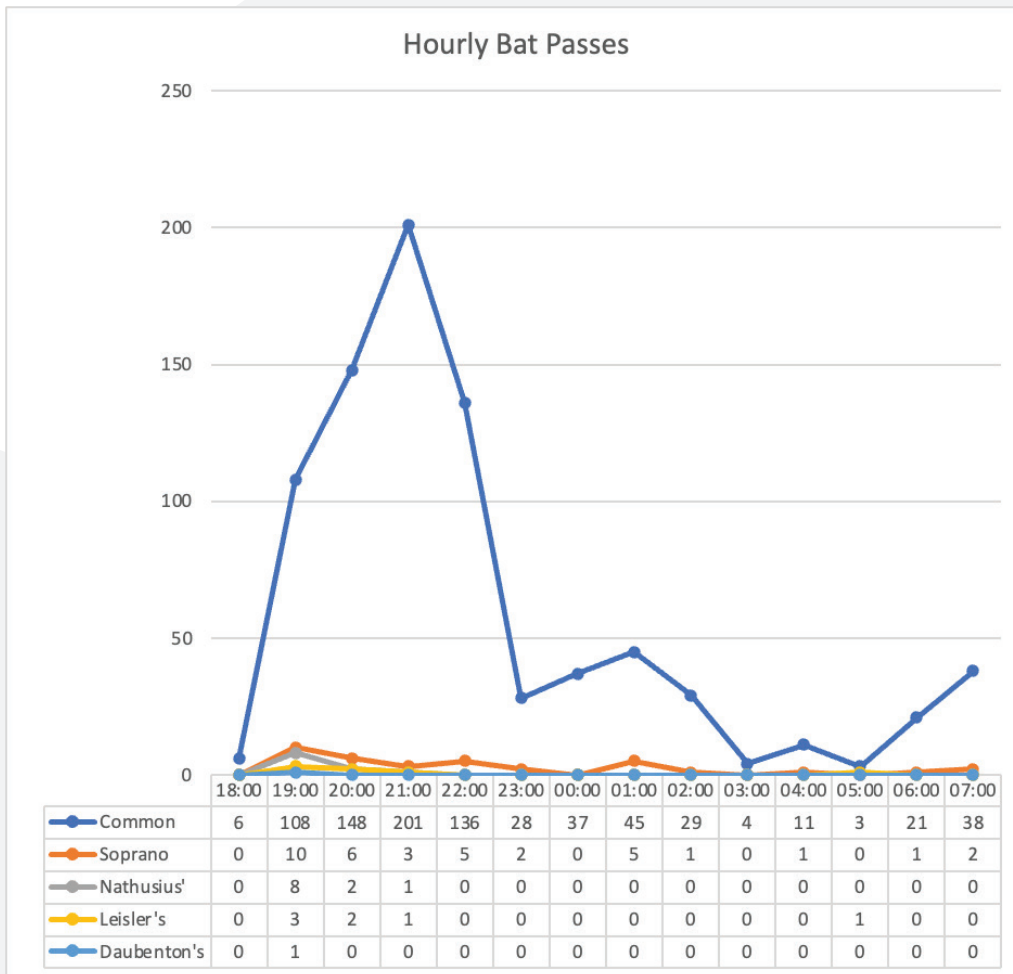


Figure 54: Hourly Bat Passes

Summary

The Corbally detector was in place from 08/10/2025 to 24/10/2025, however, from 19/10/2025 onwards there were only “Noise” recordings and no bat passes at all.

Weather during deployment was mostly dry up until the 17-18th October. Apart from cool temperatures around October 11th, temperatures were mild and somewhat above average for the rest of the deployment period (weather information from met.ie)

Five of the possible nine species were recorded at this location. A lower number of species may be expected at the end of the active season for bats. The most prolific species recorded was the Common Pipistrelle with 815 passes identified and Soprano Pipistrelles accounted for only 36 bat passes. Nathusius' Pipistrelle, Daubenton's Bat and Leisler's Bat were minimal by comparison. No other species were recorded during detector deployment.



Plecotus auritus bat, Donegal. Photograph by David McIlveen. CC by SA 4.0

COUNTY LOUTH (LOUTH BAT GROUP)

SITE 1: GYLES QUAY



Figure 55: Gyles Quay County Louth – courtesy of irish.gridreferencefinder.com

Gyles Quay is situated on the Irish Sea coast on the southern side of the Cooley Peninsula. Land in the vicinity of the village is primarily managed as intensive livestock and arable agriculture.

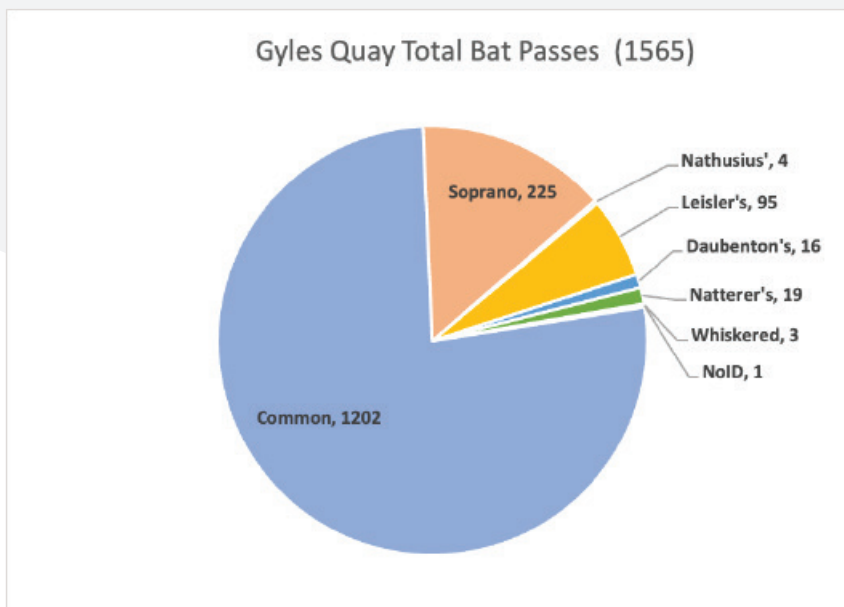


Figure 56: Gyles Quay Total Bat Passes

Daily Bat Counts

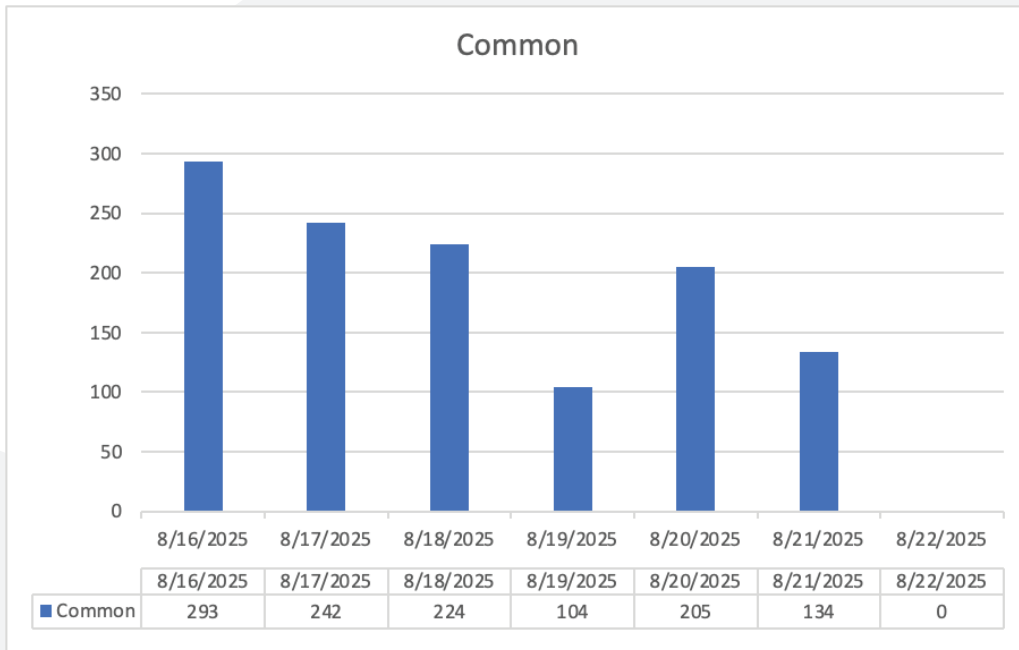


Figure 57: Common Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

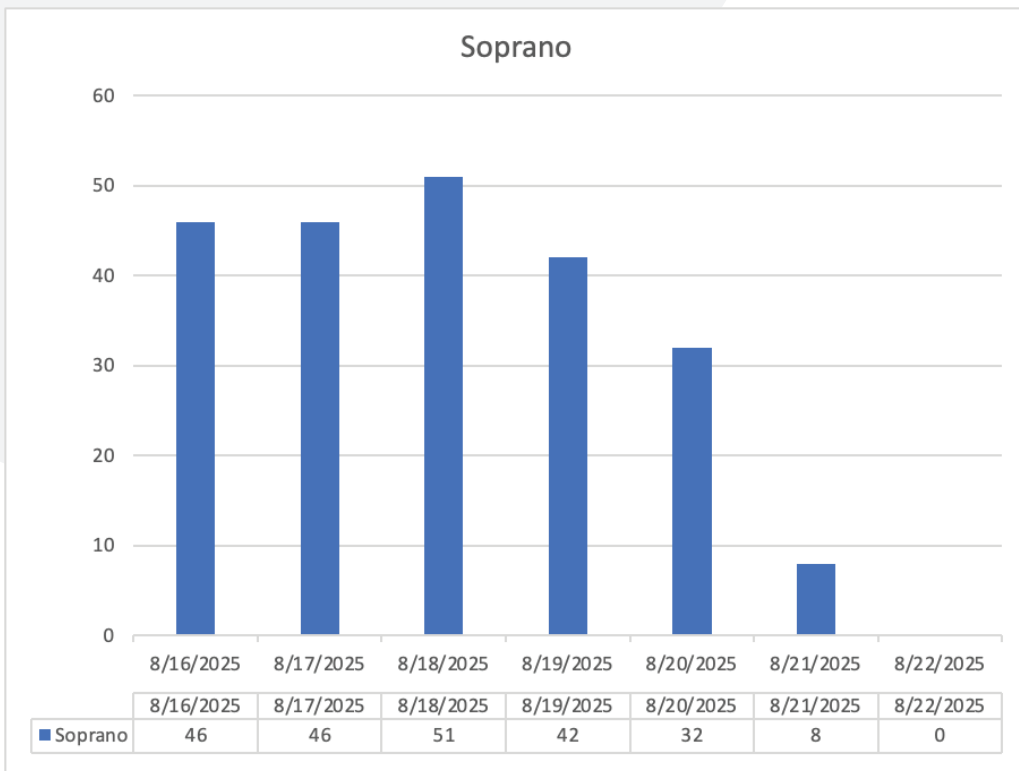


Figure 58: Soprano Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

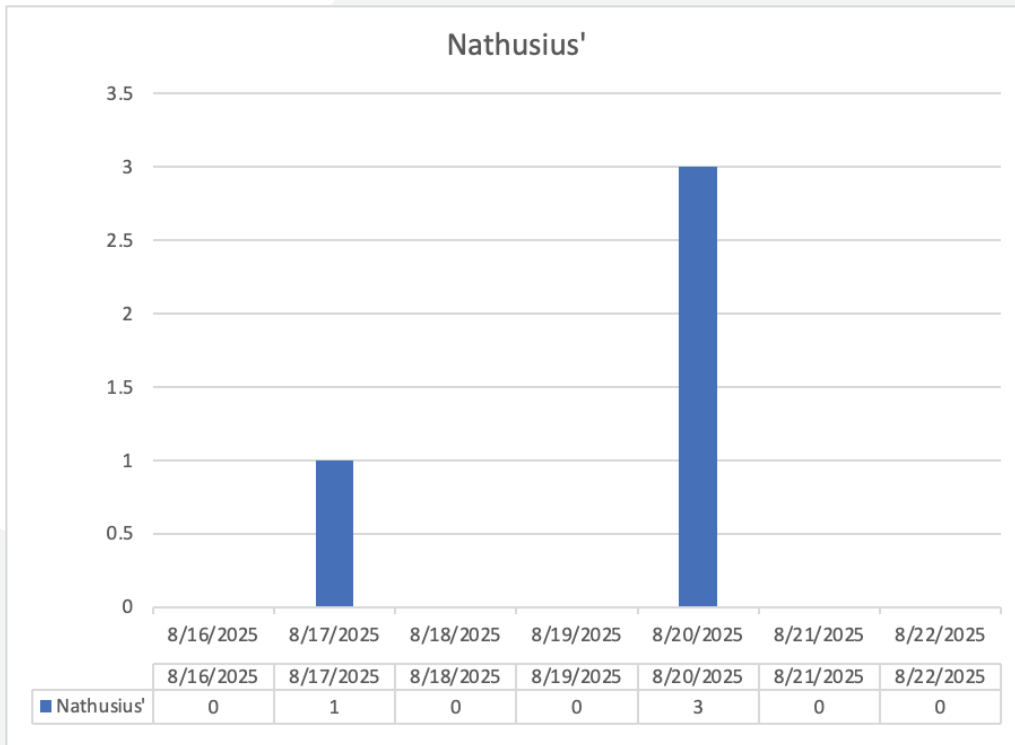


Figure 59: Nathusius' Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

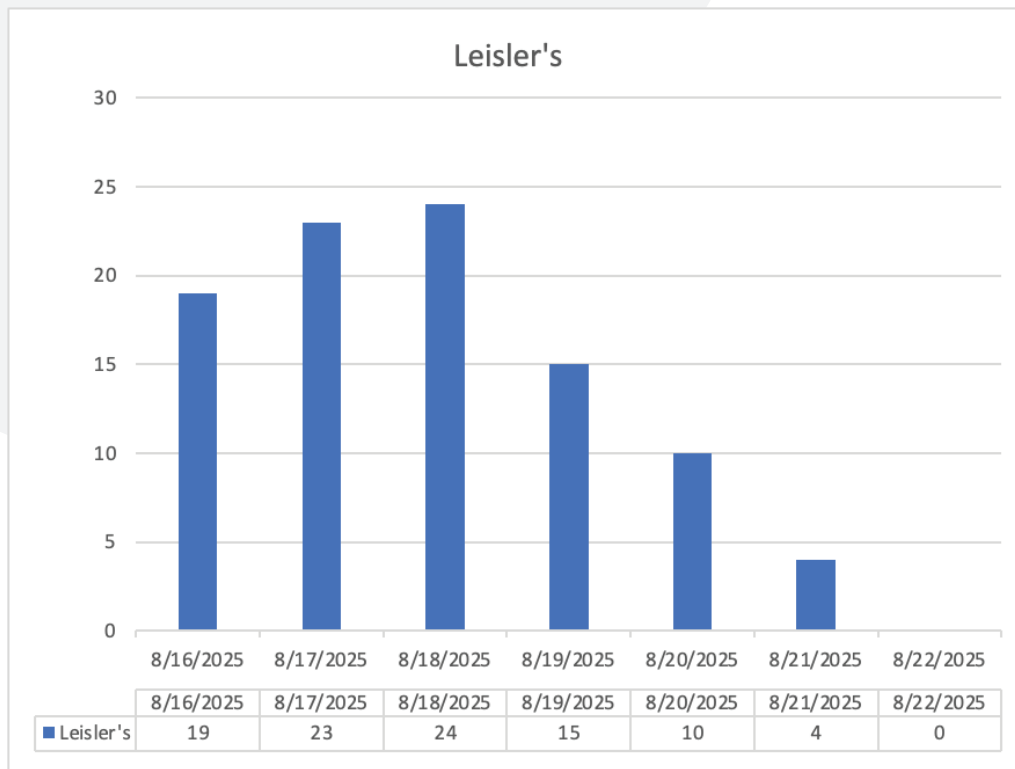


Figure 60: Leisler's Daily Bat Passes

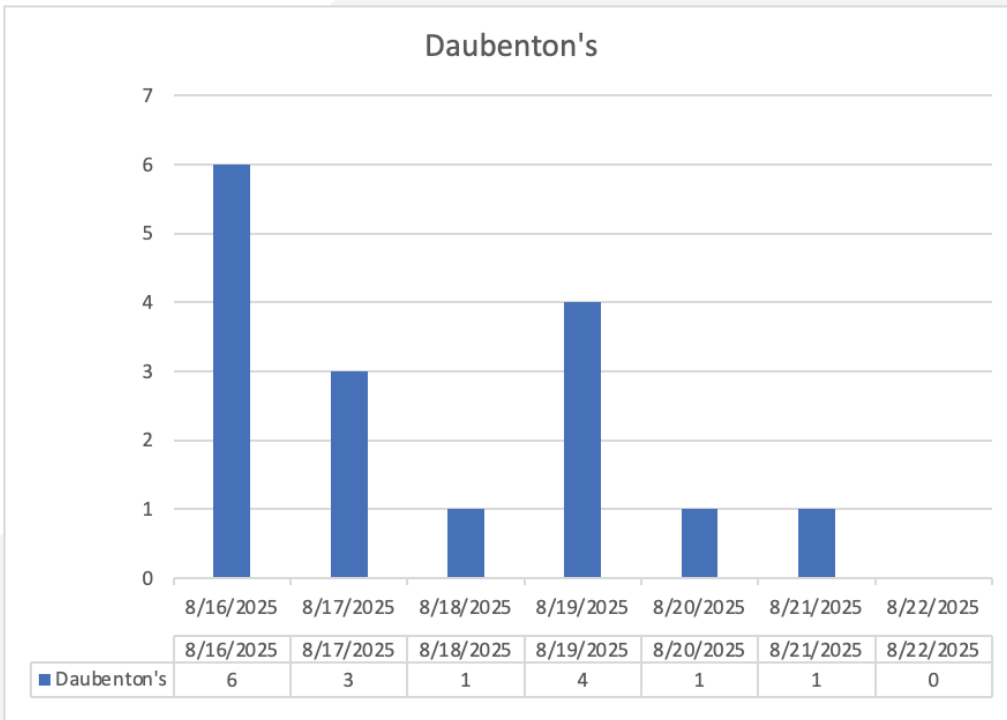


Figure 61: Daubenton's Daily Bat Passes

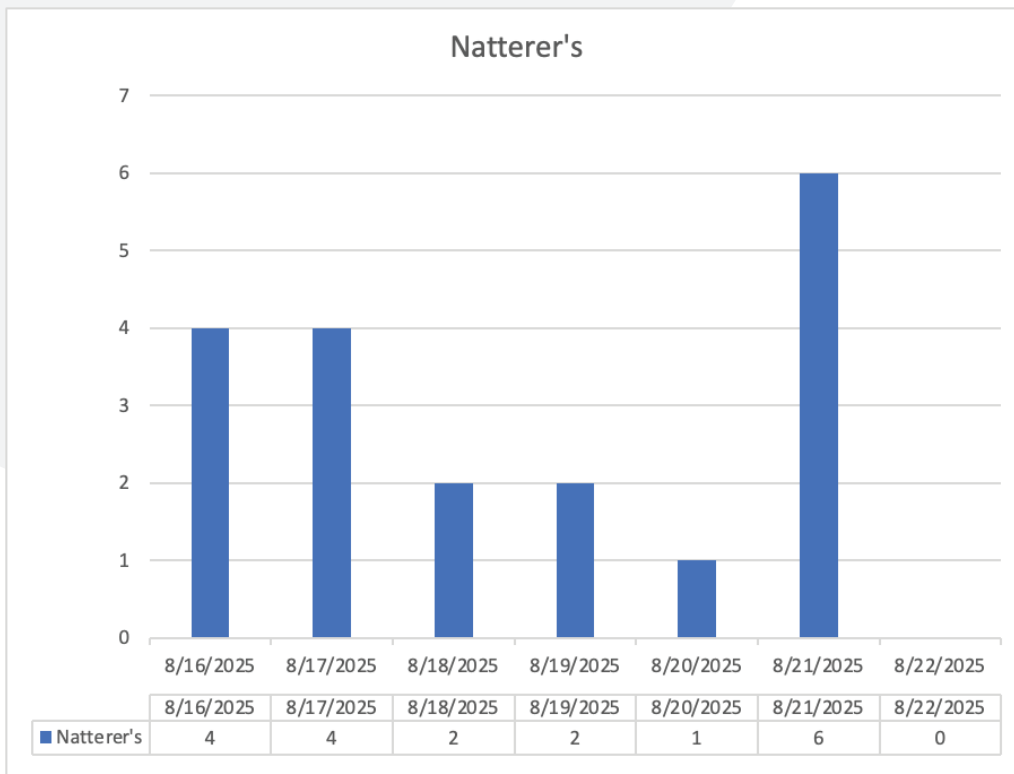


Figure 62: Natterer's Daily Bat Passes

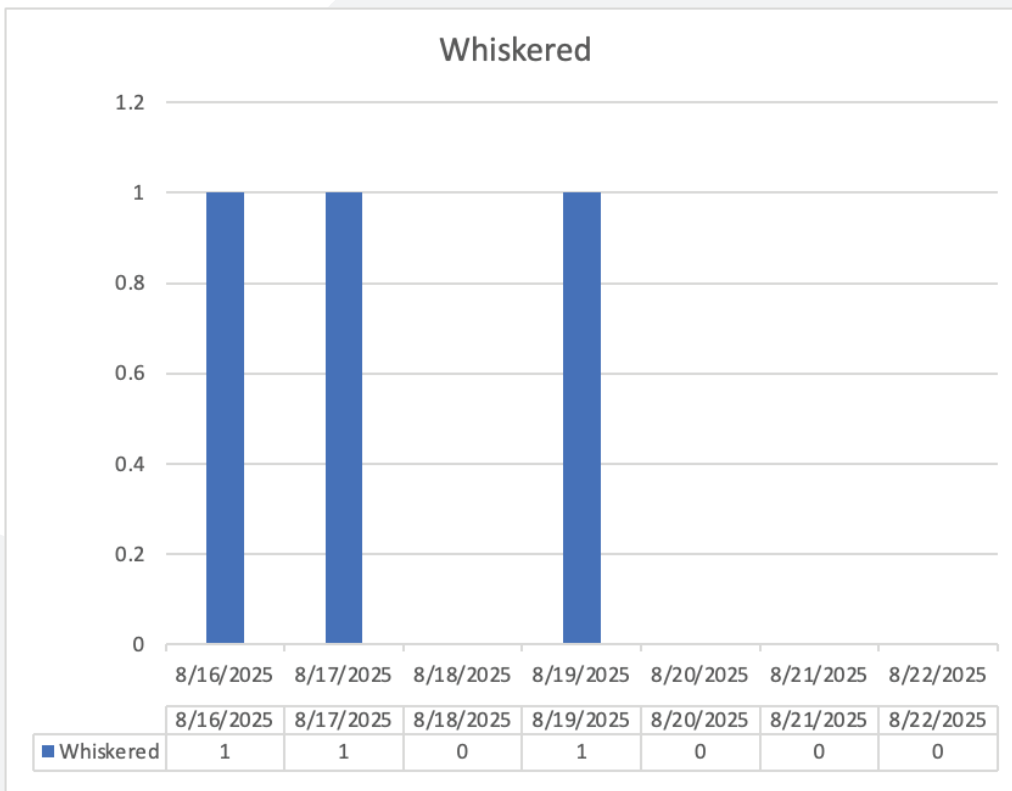


Figure 63: Whiskered Daily Bat Passes

Hourly Bat Passes

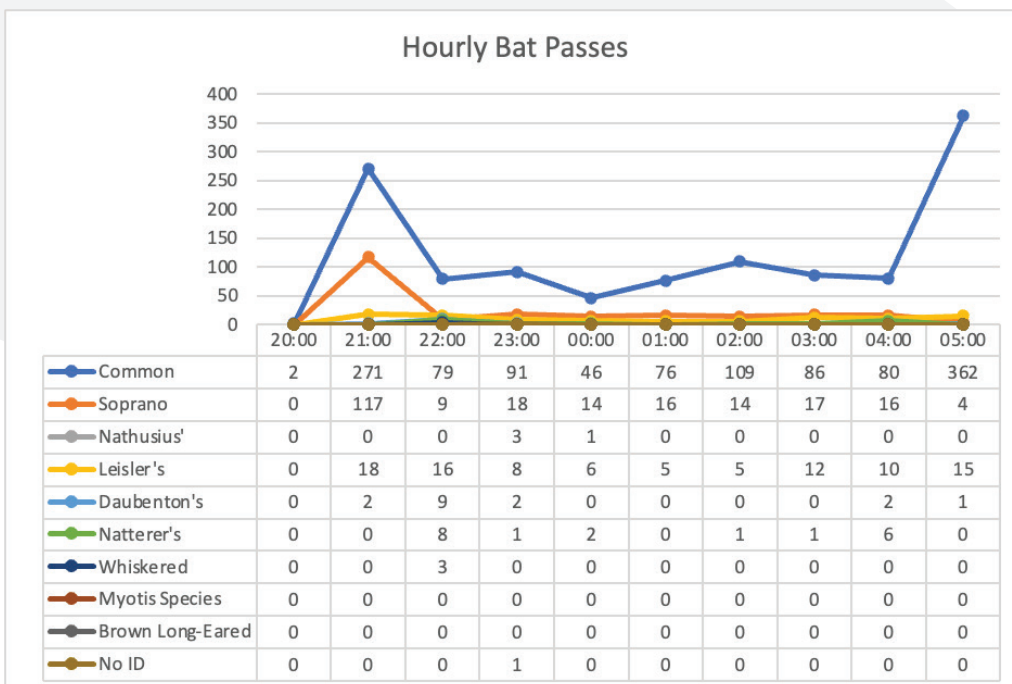


Figure 64: Hourly Bat Passes

Summary

The Song Meter Mini Bat was in place at Gyles Quay, County Louth from 16/08/2025 to 22/08/2025. The nearest Met Eireann weather stations at Cavan and Dublin both showed higher than average temperatures for most of the deployment period. Both stations recorded little or no rainfall in the time period (information from met.ie).

A total of 1565 bat passes were recorded. Seven of the possible eight species were identified with 1202 Common Pipistrelle passes and 225 Soprano Pipistrelle passes. The Hourly Bat Passes show that high numbers of common pipistrelles were recorded in the early hours of the morning which suggests dawn swarming behaviour, so there may be a roost in the nearby locality. There were nominal recordings of Myotis species and no Brown Long-Eared bat passes recorded at all.



Common Pipistrelle bat. Photograph by Paul van Hoof.

SITE 2: DUNANY POINT



Figure 65: Dunany Point County Louth – courtesy of irish.gridreferencefinder.com

Dunany Point is a small promontory that has arisen from the erosion of glacial moraine deposits. The point is the south-easternmost tip of Dundalk Bay. The habitats are mainly intensive arable agriculture although there is some woodland inland from the point.

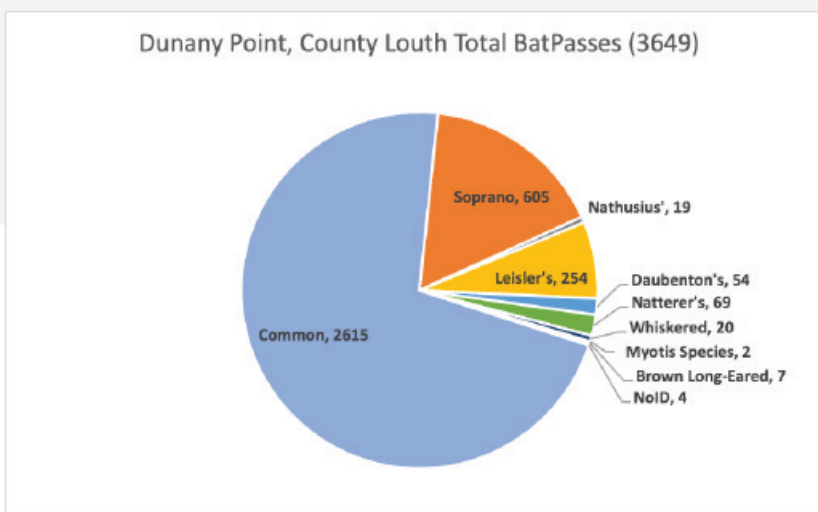


Figure 66: Dunany Point Total Bat Passes

Daily Bat Pass Counts

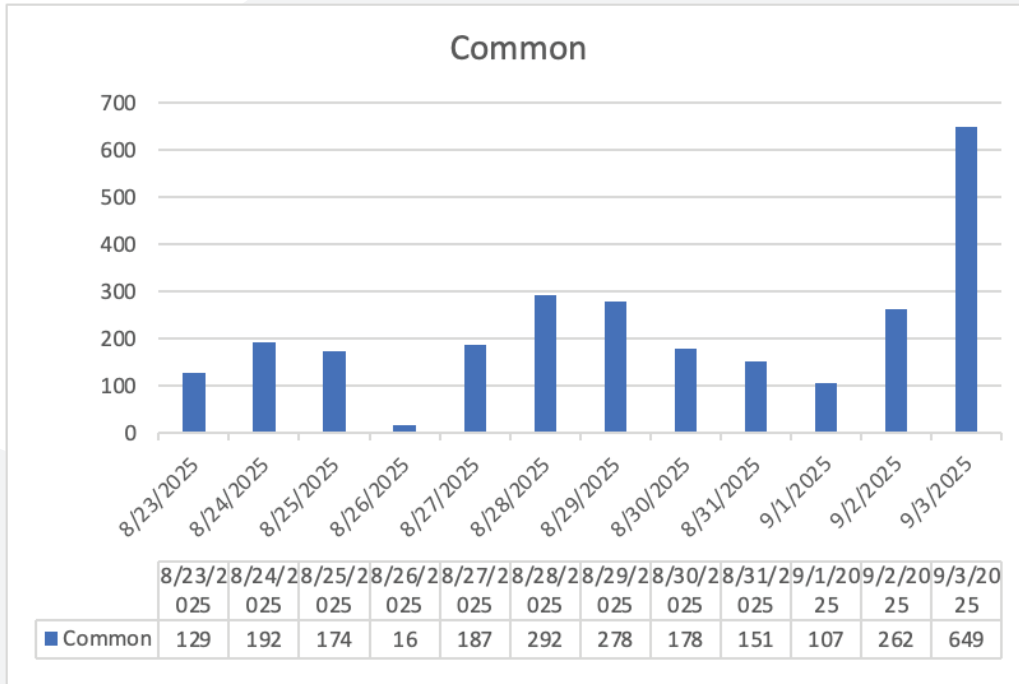


Figure 67: Common Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

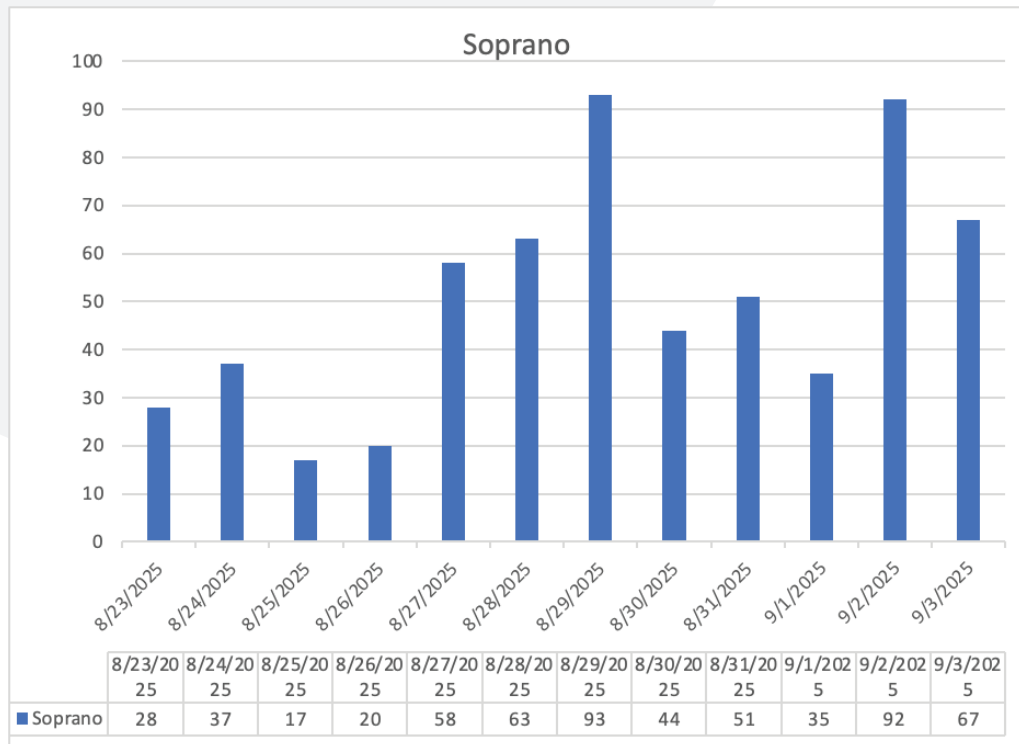


Figure 68: Soprano Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

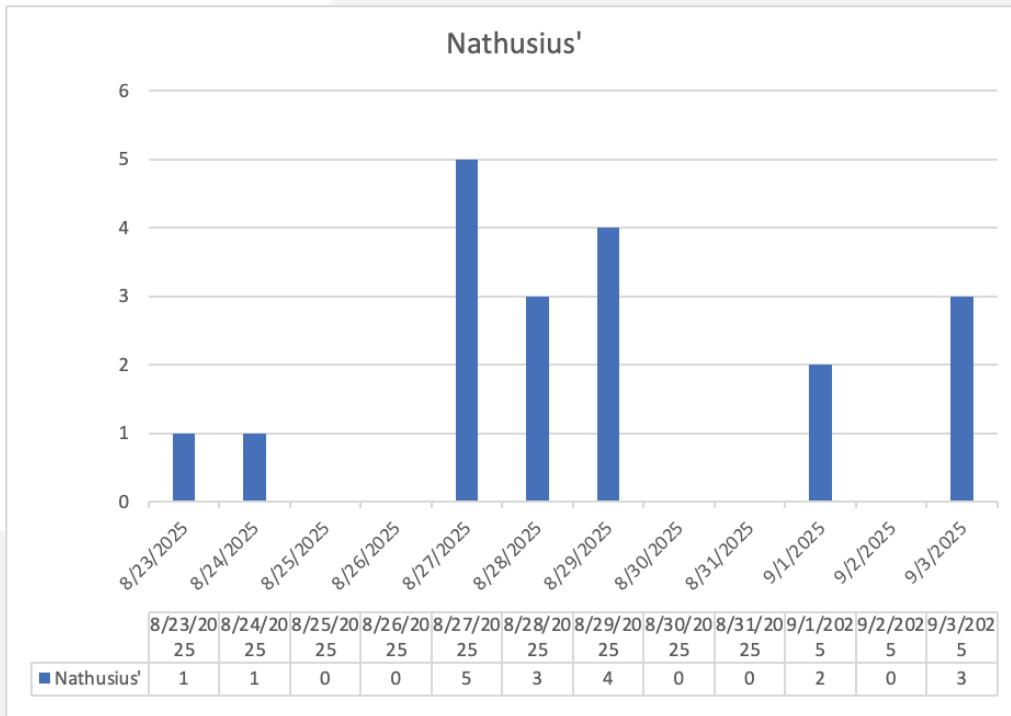


Figure 69: Nathusius' Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes



Figure 70: Leisler's Daily Bat Passes

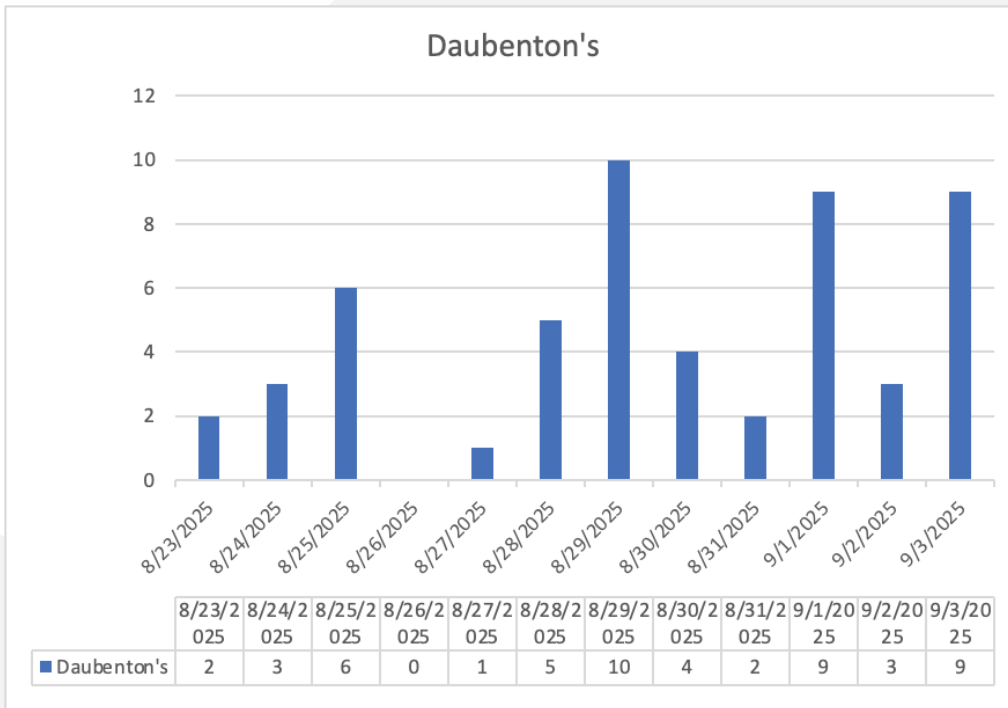


Figure 71: Daubenton's Daily Bat Passes

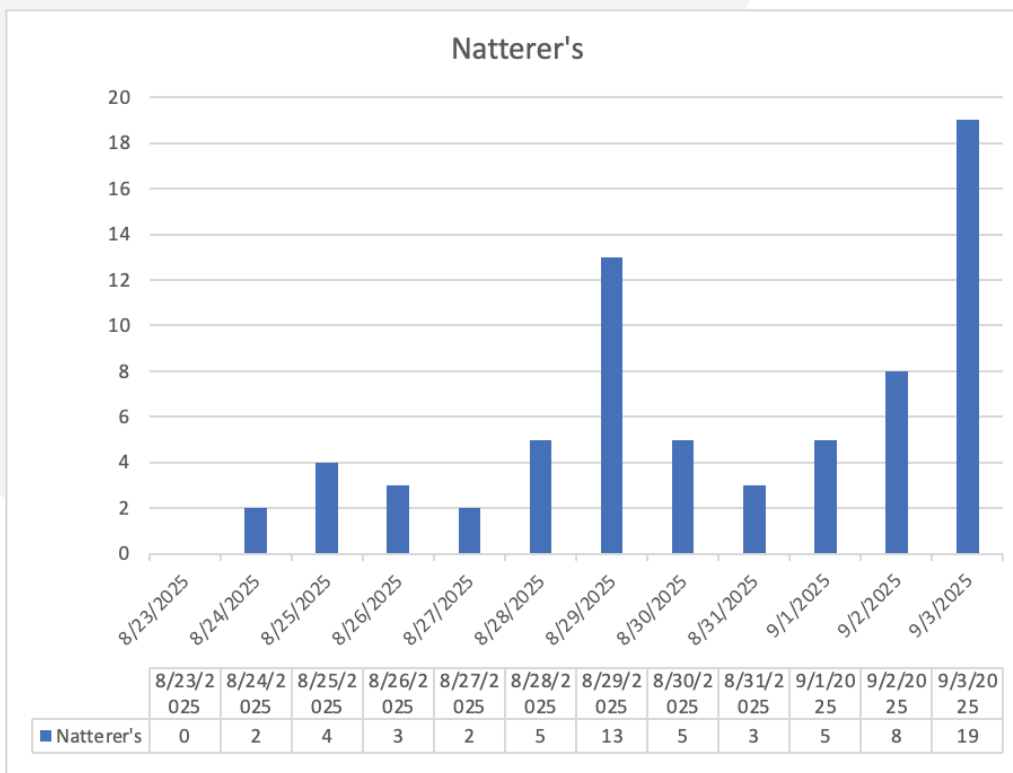


Figure 72: Natterer's Daily Bat Passes

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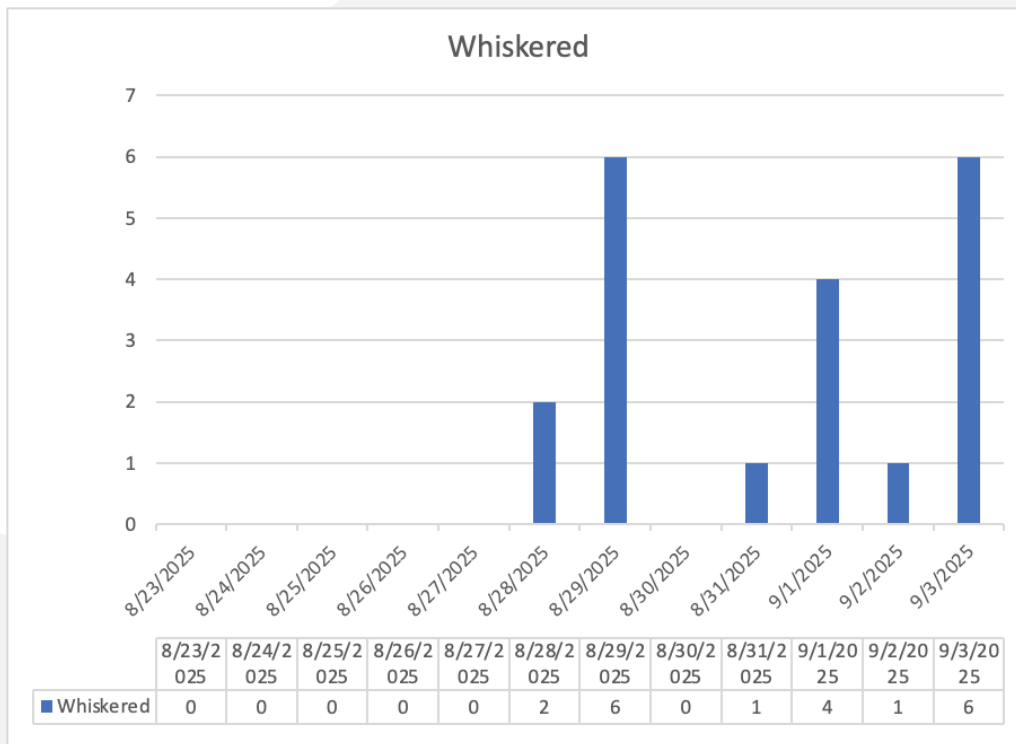


Figure 73: Whiskered Daily Bat Passes

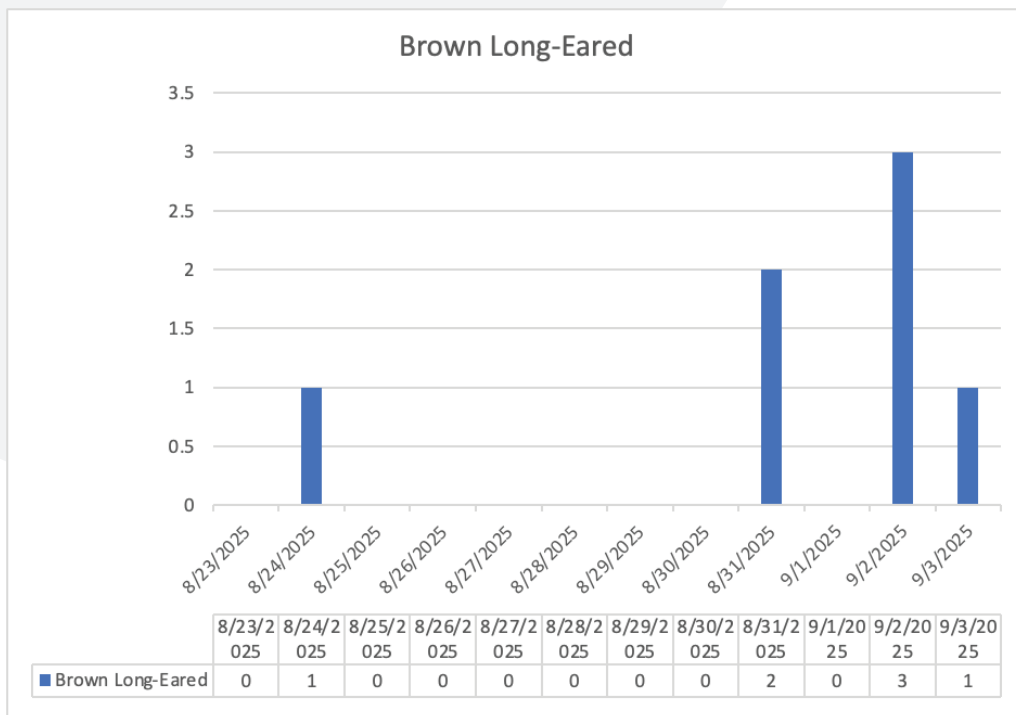


Figure 74: Brown Long-eared Daily Bat Passes

Hourly Bat Passes

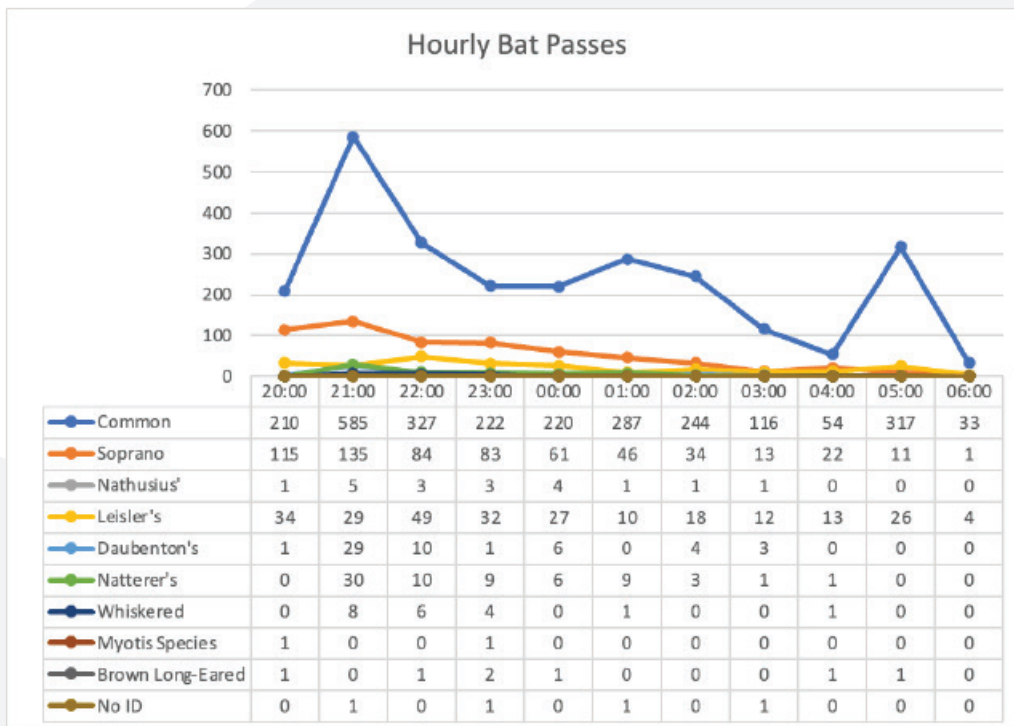


Figure 75: Hourly Bat Passes



Figure 76: Song Meter Mini in situ at Dunany Point – courtesy of Louth Bat Group

Summary

The project ran from 23/08/2025 to 03/09/2025 at Dunany Point in County Louth with 3649 bat passes recorded in total. There were occasional days with rain during the deployment period, with high rainfall on August 28th in Dublin Airport, the nearest Met Eireann weather station, and a dry period at the start of September. Temperatures were higher than average (information from met.ie).

All eight possible species were detected with Common Pipistrelles being the most prevalent. There were 2615 bat passes recorded for this species. The next most abundant species identified was the Soprano Pipistrelle with 605 recorded passes and then Leisler's with 254 identified passes. There were smaller numbers of Myotis species and only seven Brown Long-Eared bat passes recorded.



Brown Long-eared bat. Photograph by Faith Wilson.

COUNTY MEATH (MEATH BAT GROUP)

SITE 1: GIRLEY BOG



Figure 77: Girley Bog, County Meath – courtesy of irish.gridreferencefinder.com

Girley Bog is a raised bog in County Meath that was subject to peat extraction and drainage in the past. It has been included in a LIFE restoration project managed by Coillte. The bat detector was placed in woodland that is found around its perimeter rather than on the active bog itself.

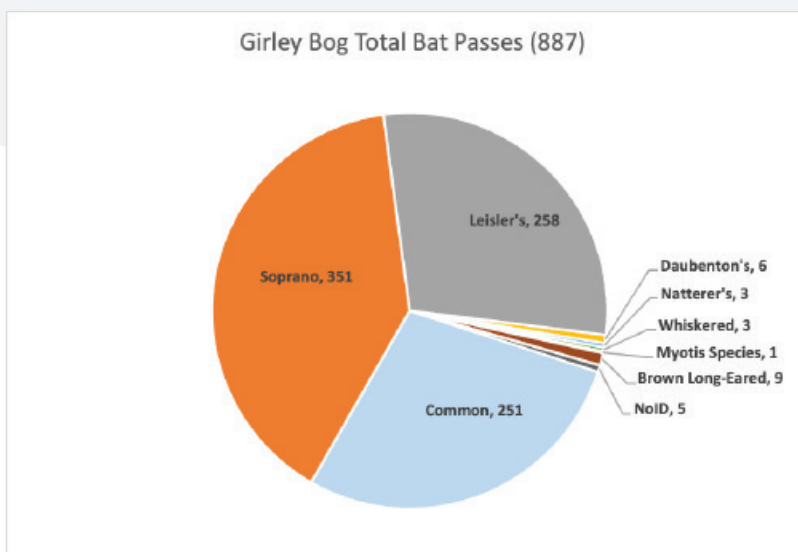


Figure 78: Girley Bog Total Bat Passes

Daily Bat Counts

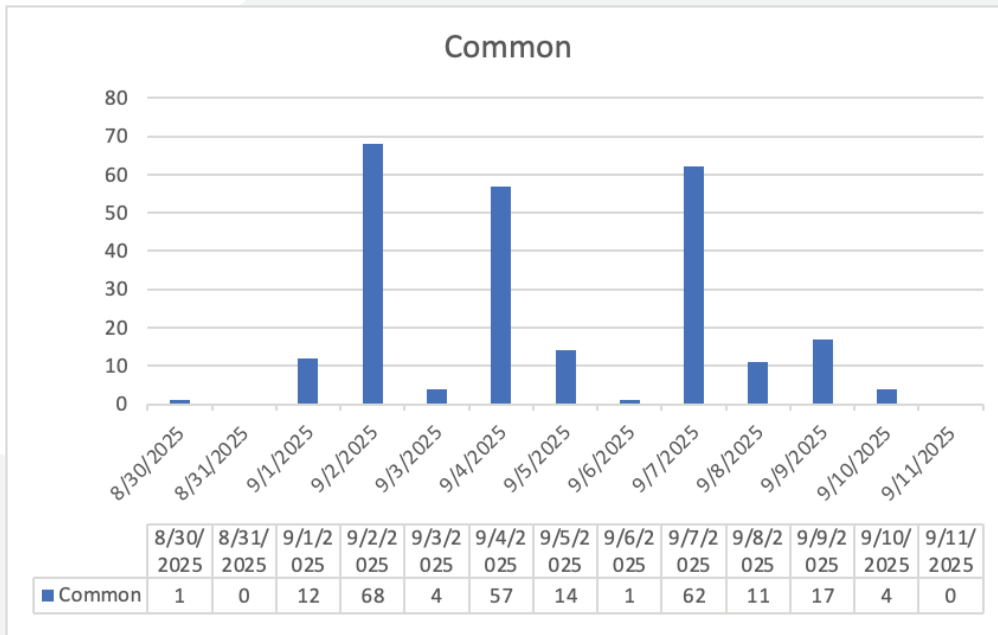


Figure 79: Common Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

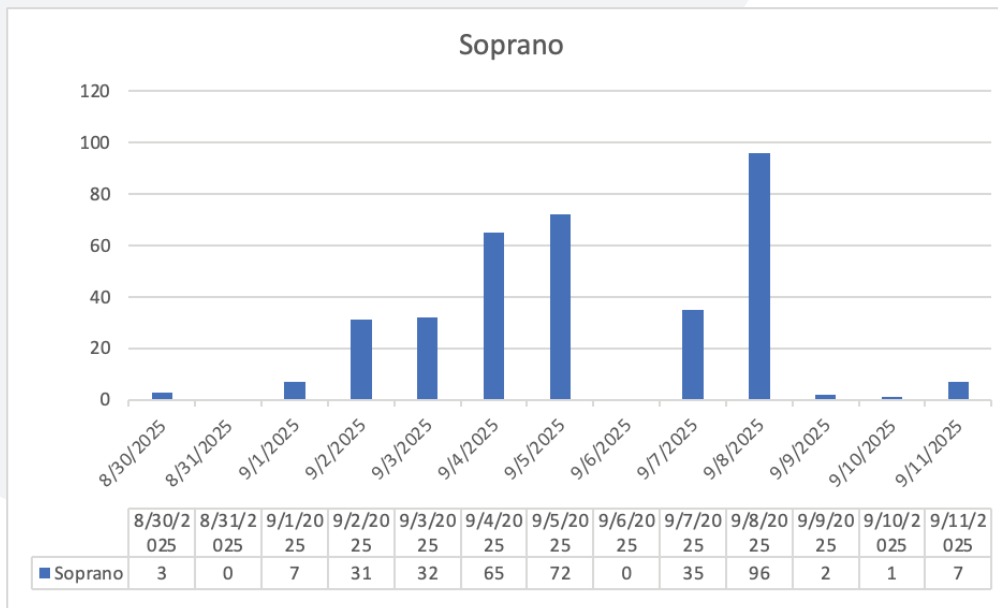


Figure 80: Soprano Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

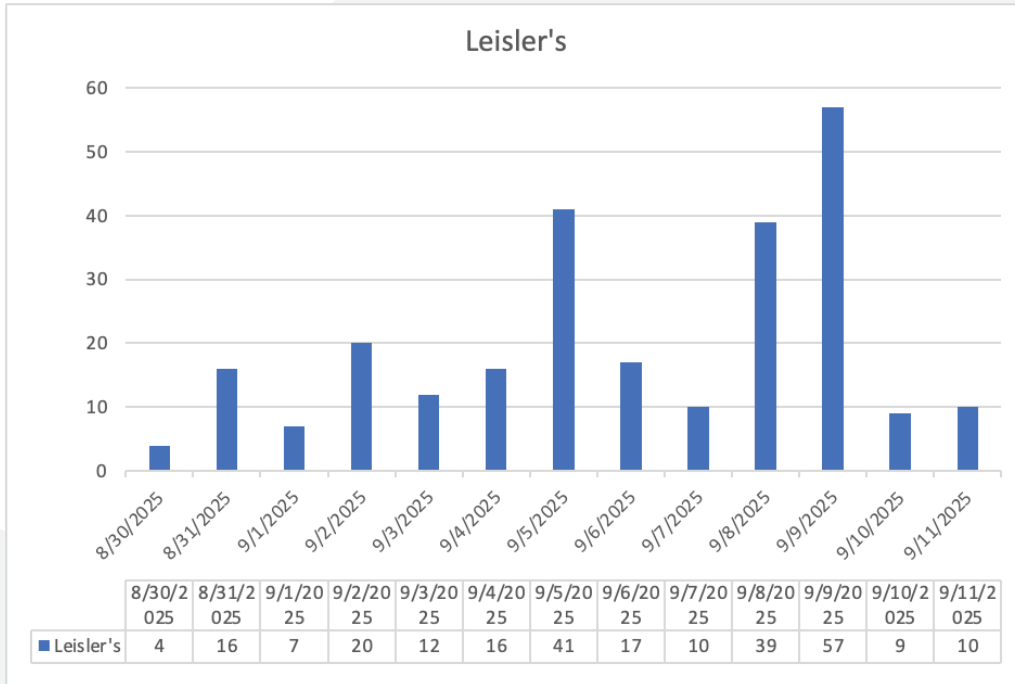


Figure 81: Leisler's Daily Bat Passes

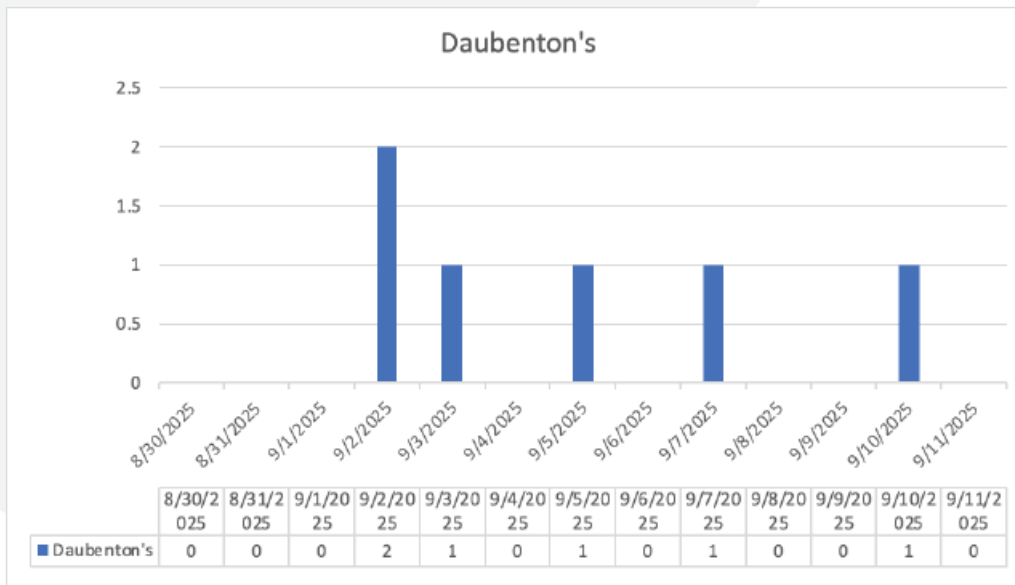


Figure 82: Daubenton's Daily Bat Passes

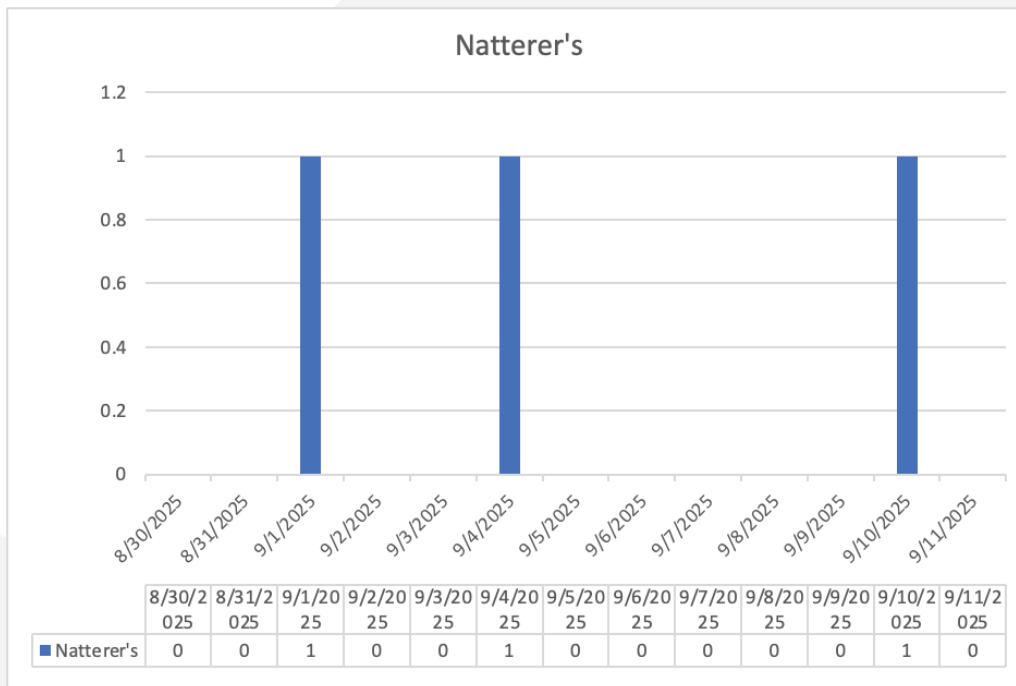


Figure 83: Natterer's Daily Bat Passes

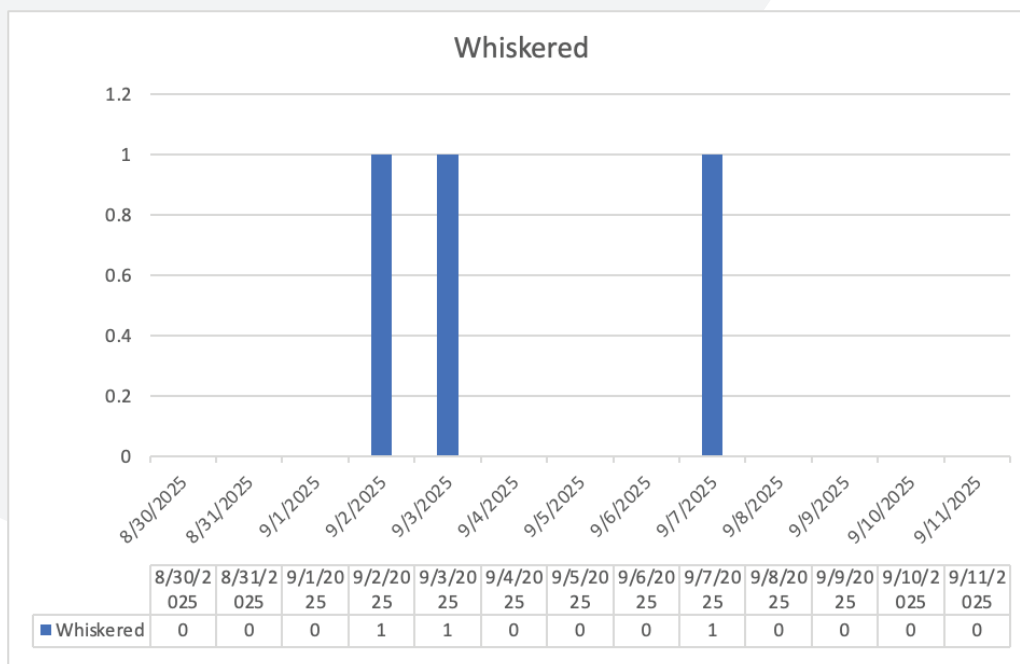


Figure 84: Whiskered Daily Bat Passes

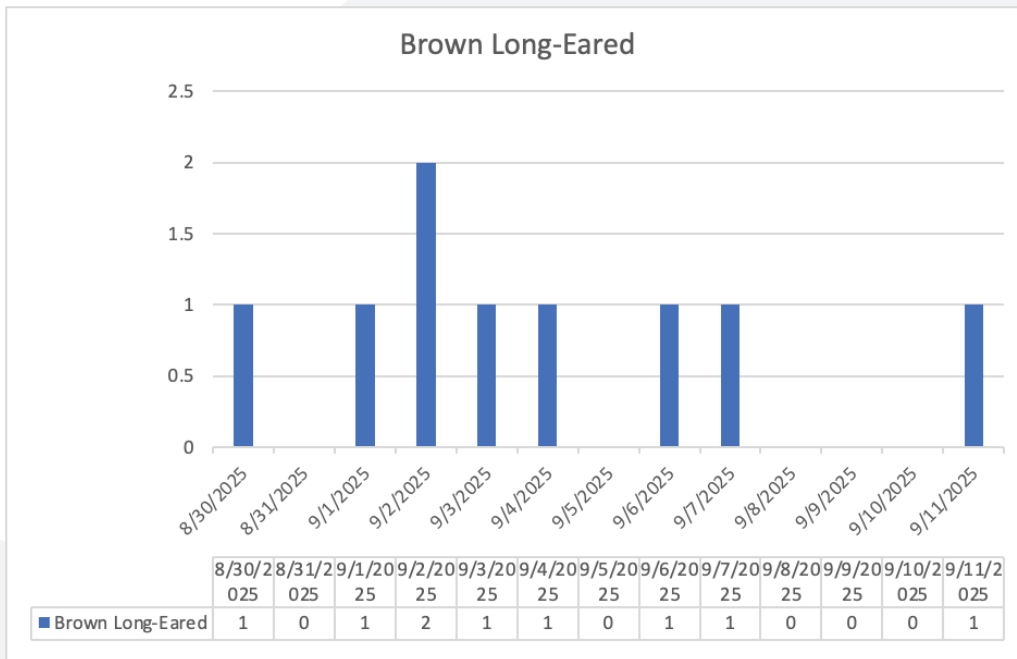


Figure 85: Brown Long-eared Daily Bat Passes



Daubenton's bat hunting . Photograph by Paul van Hoof.

Hourly Bat Passes

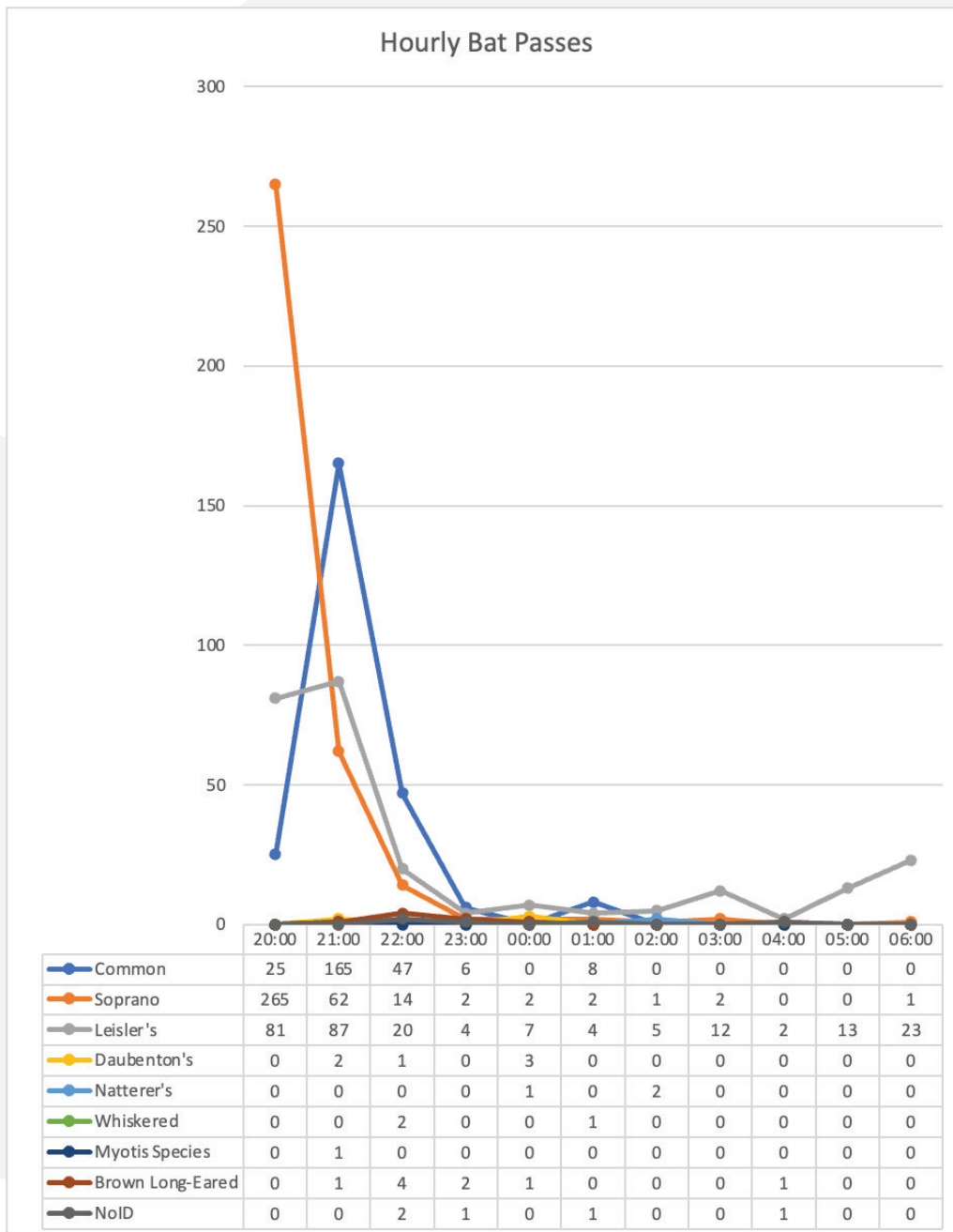


Figure 86: Hourly Bat Passes



Figure 87 (a) & (b): Location of Bat Detector in Girley Bog, courtesy of Brian Keeley

Summary

The Girley Bog Song Meter Mini Bat was deployed from 30/08/2025 to 11/09/2025. Weather conditions during late August and early September were generally cool with temperatures dipping below the long-term average. Rainfall was high at times, particularly on September 10th when windspeeds were also high (information from met.ie).

The bat species with the most passes were Soprano Pipistrelles with 351 recordings identified and the next most prolific was Leisler's Bats with 258 passes. There were 251 Common Pipistrelle passes and no Nathusius' Pipistrelle recordings at all. The remaining four possible species only made a brief appearance.

Site 2: Laytown Sea Front



Figure 88: Laytown sea front -courtesy of irish.gridreferencefinder.com

This sea front site is located within a relatively urban area with considerable sprawling housing/residential development. Laytown is bounded by the Irish Sea to the east, and land to the west is predominated by highly intensive, mainly arable, agriculture.

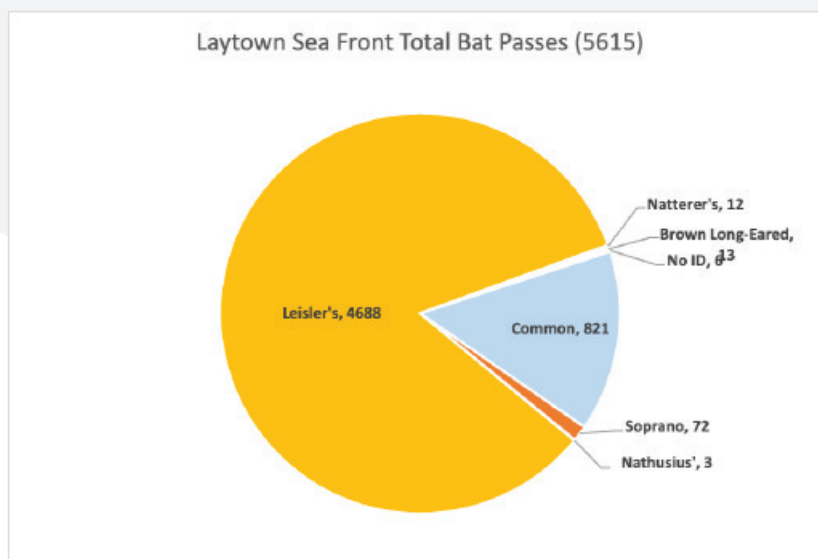


Figure 88: Laytown Sea Front Total Bat Passes

Daily Bat Pass Counts

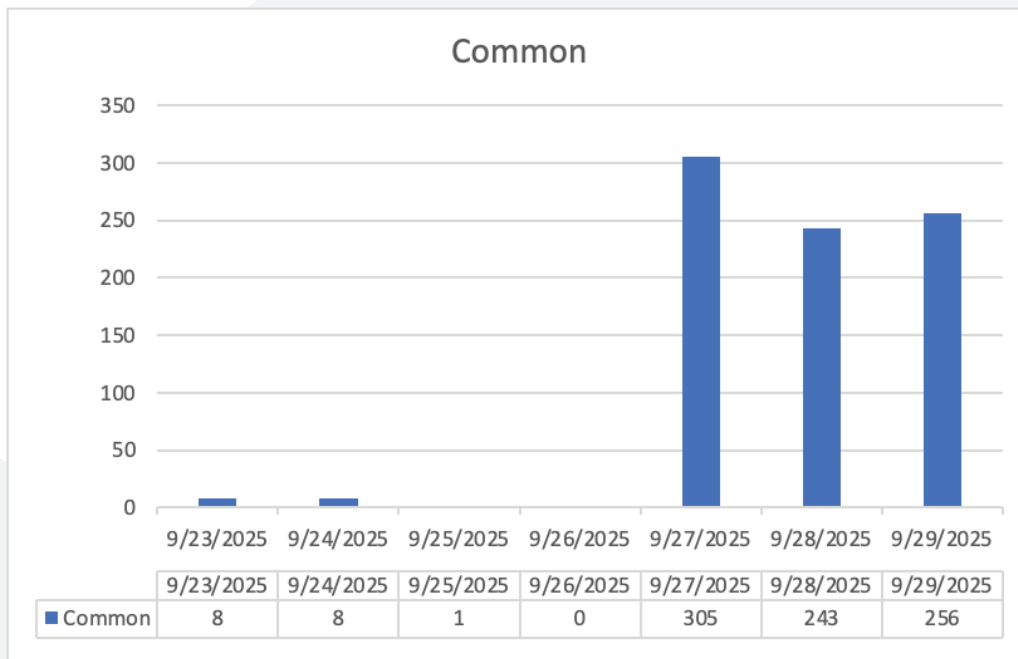


Figure 89: Common Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

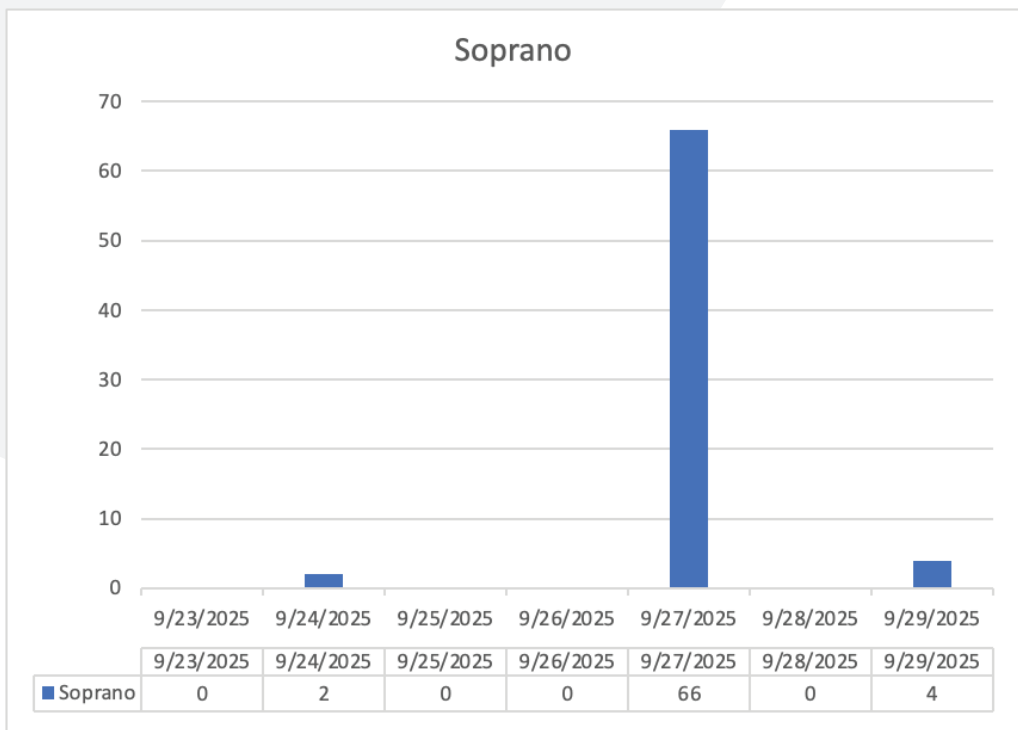


Figure 90: Soprano Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

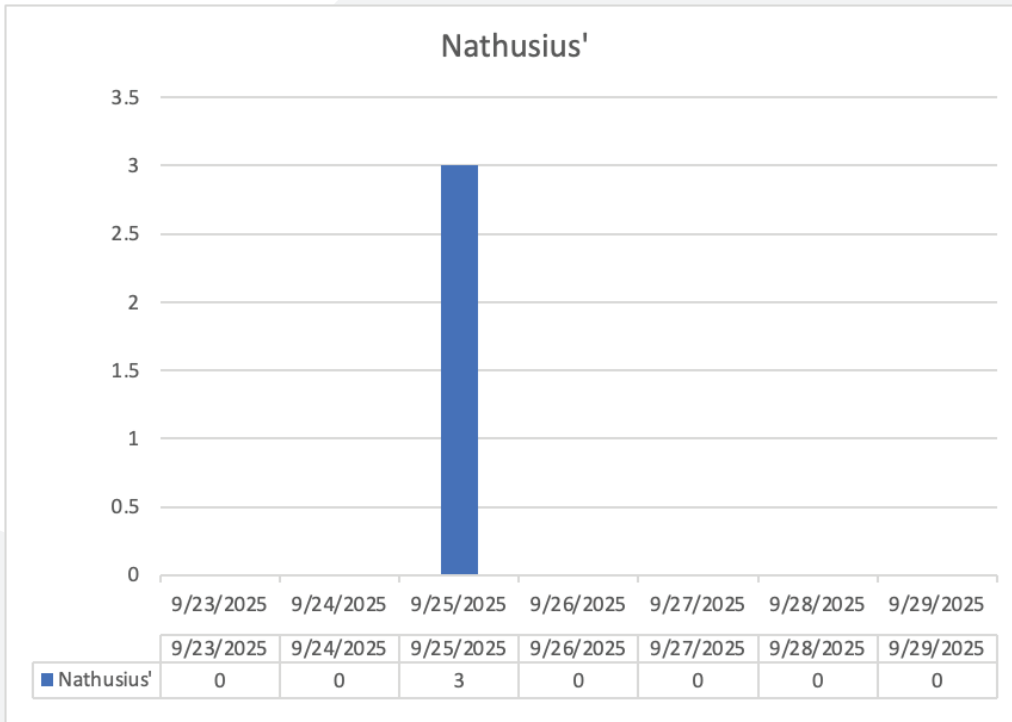


Figure 91: Nathusius' Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

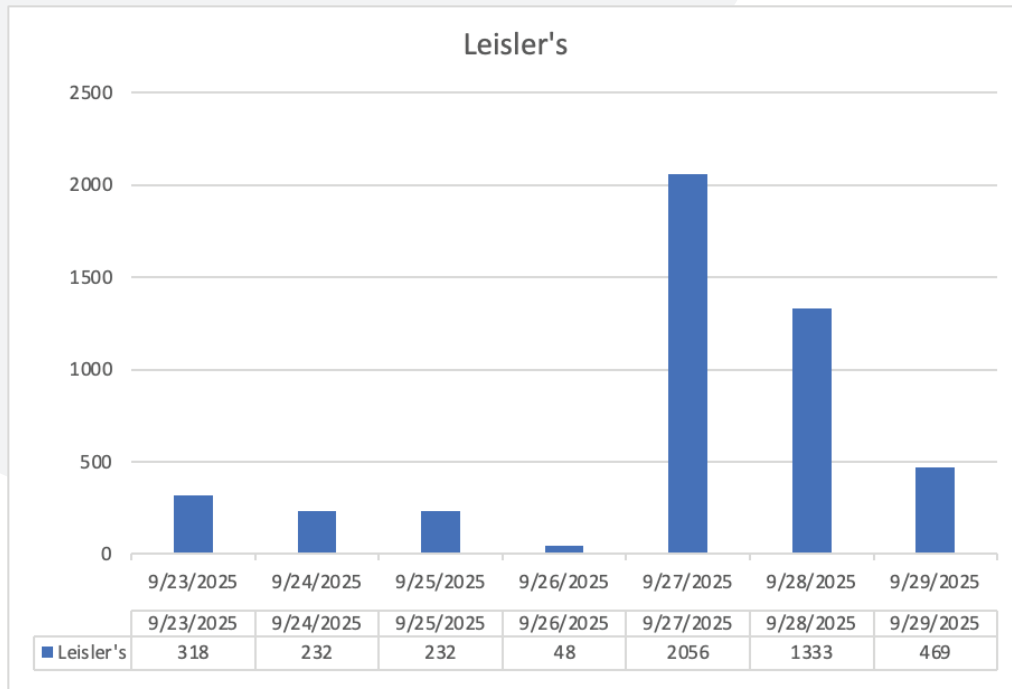


Figure 92: Leisler's Daily Bat Passes

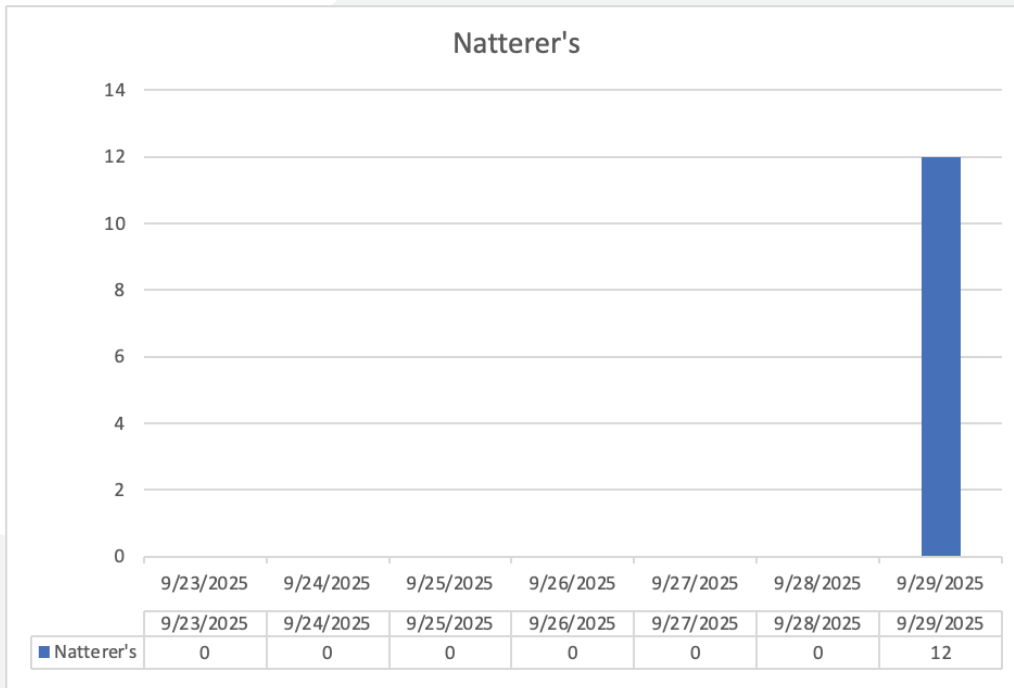


Figure 93: Natterer's Daily Bat Passes

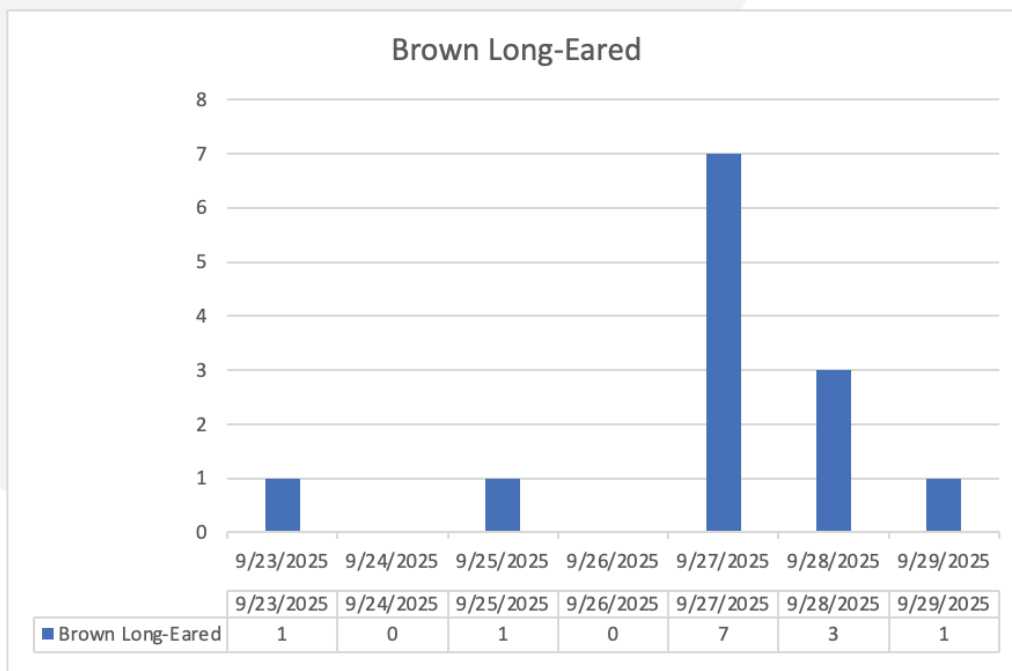


Figure 94: Brown Long-eared Daily Bat Passes

Hourly Bat Passes

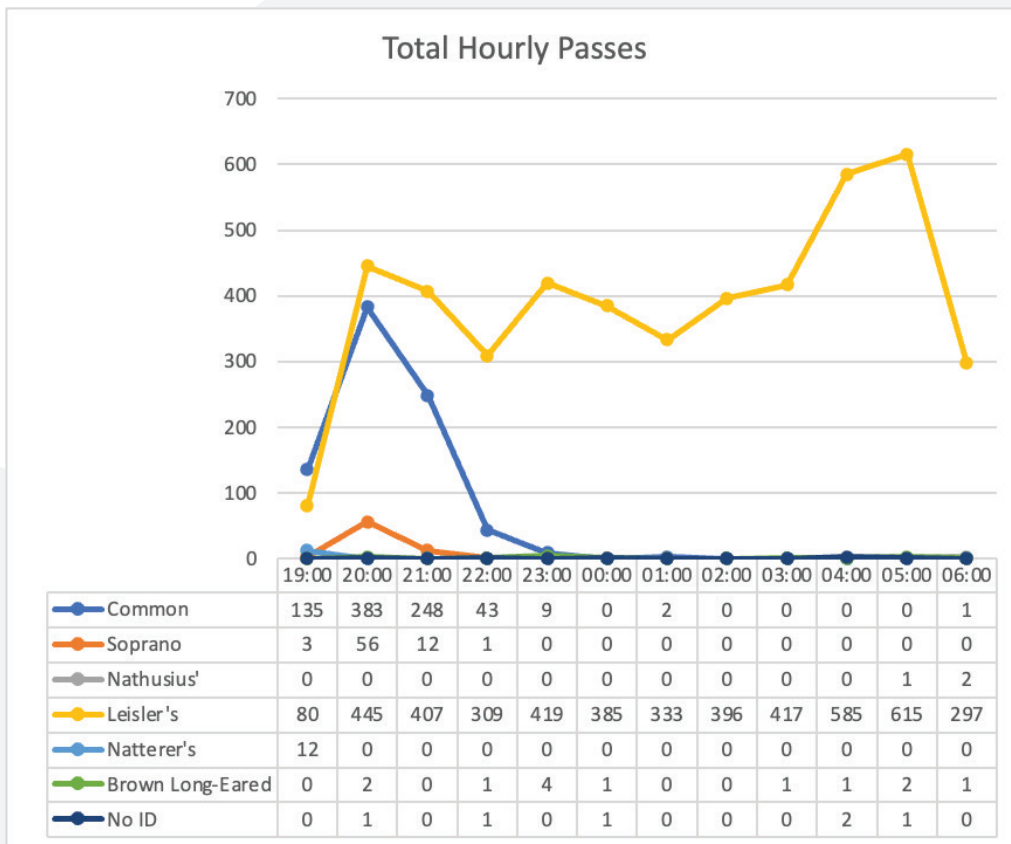


Figure 95: Hourly Bat Passes



Figure 96: Laytown Sea Front Habitat - courtesy of Brian Keeley

Summary

The detector here was deployed very close to the seashore for six days from September 23rd to 29th. The first 20 days of September, or thereabouts, were dominated by unsettled wet and cool weather conditions. For the last 10 days, however, high pressure moved in from the west bringing mostly dry days with sunshine. Temperatures were cool - from the 21st temperatures were significantly below the long-term average with just a slight increase on the 27th.

There was a total of 5615 bat passes recorded at this location on Laytown sea front and six of a possible eight species were included. Surprisingly, 4688 of these were identified as Leisler's bat passes. Leisler's bats are migratory across Europe (Dietz and Kiefer, 2016). The peak in Leisler's bat activity occurred over three nights starting on September 27th coincided with a change in wind direction from southerly on the 27th to west - north westerly on the 28th and back to south westerly by September 29th (information from met.ie). Should Leisler's bats migrate, we might expect aggregations on the coast to occur in advance of migration and when offshore winds combine with dry weather to facilitate oversea flight, which is exactly what occurred on this occasion. However, there may be other explanations for high activity of Leisler's here such as temporary high numbers of swarms of invertebrate prey, or perhaps pre-hibernal swarming of some kind.

851 Common Pipistrelle passes were identified and there were no Daubenton's bat or Whiskered bat passes recorded at this location. The other four species, Soprano pipistrelle, Nathusius' pipistrelle, Natterer's and Brown Long-Eared were represented in very small numbers. This could be due to the coastal location of the detector.

¹ Dietz C. & Kiefer, D. A. (2016). Bats of Britain and Europe. London: Bloomsbury.

COUNTY ROSCOMMON (MIDLAND BAT GROUP)

SITE 1: COUNTY ROSCOMMON STROKESTOWN HOUSE



Figure 97: Strokestown House - courtesy of irish.gridreferencefinder.com

Strokestown House is a Palladian style Georgian House in County Roscommon. The house is open to the public and there are extensive outbuildings and gardens. In addition, there is good cover of broadleaved woodland in the area. The detector was placed on a gate to a servant's tunnel.

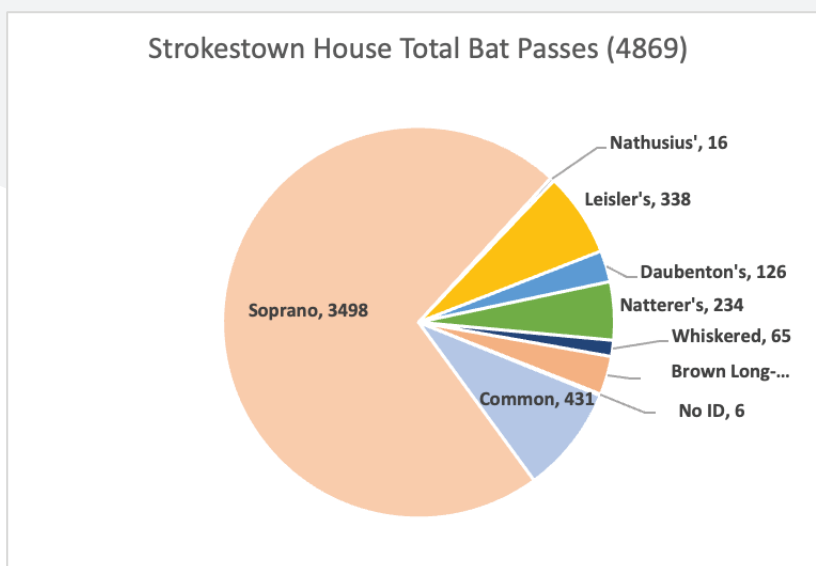


Figure 98: Strokestown House Total Bat Passes

Daily Bat Pass Counts

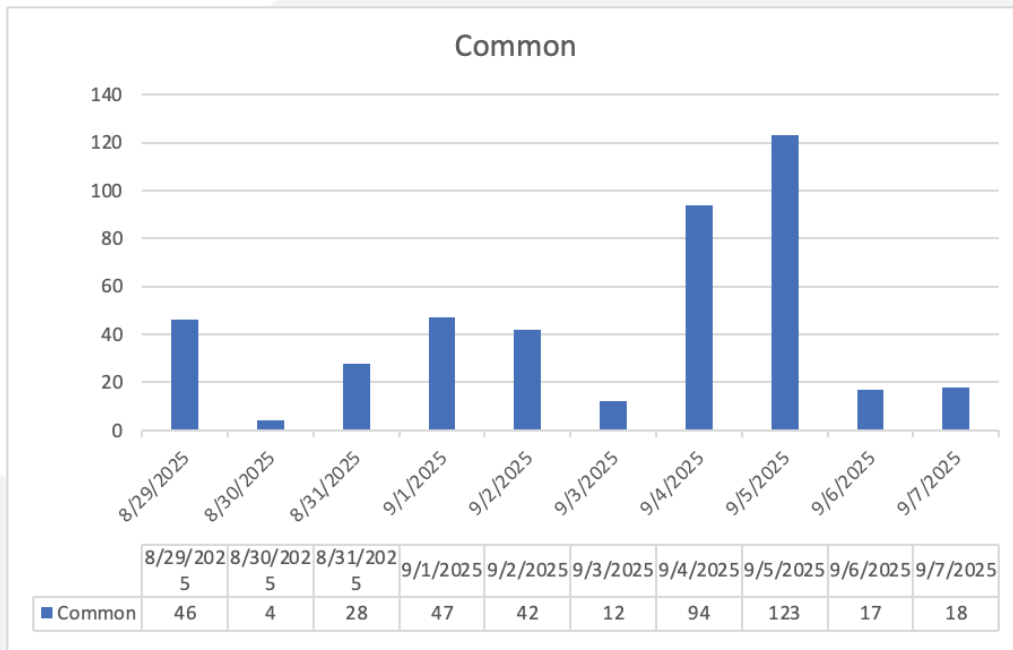


Figure 99: Common Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

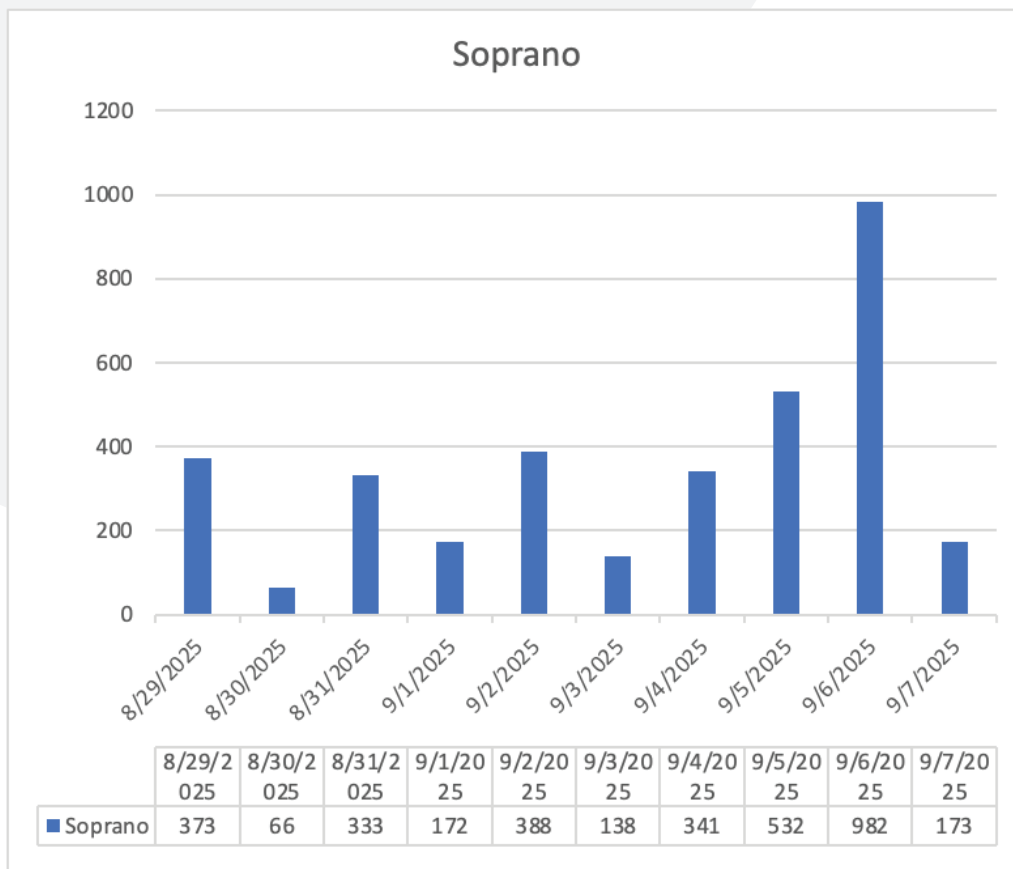


Figure 100: Soprano Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

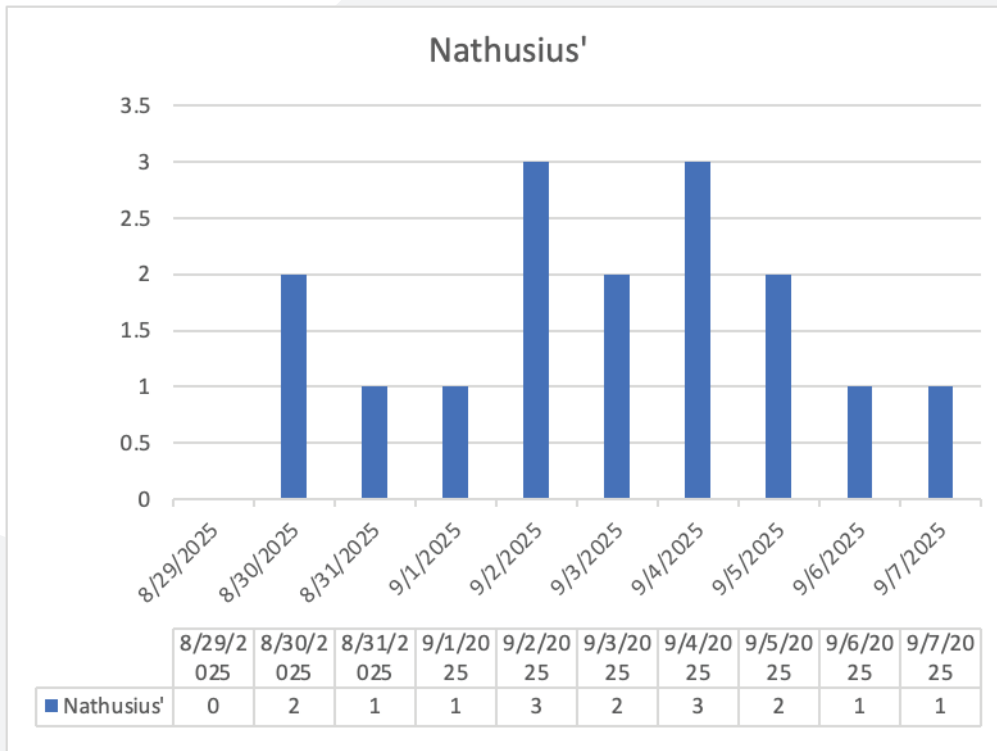


Figure 101: Nathusius' Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

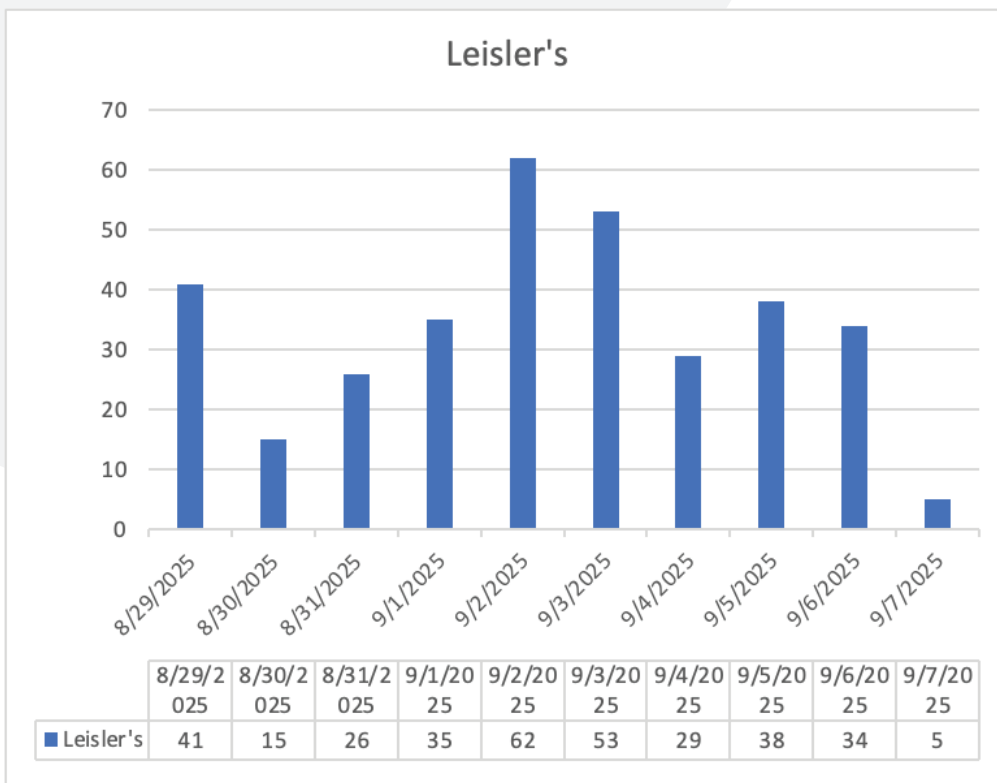


Figure 102: Leisler's Daily Bat Passes

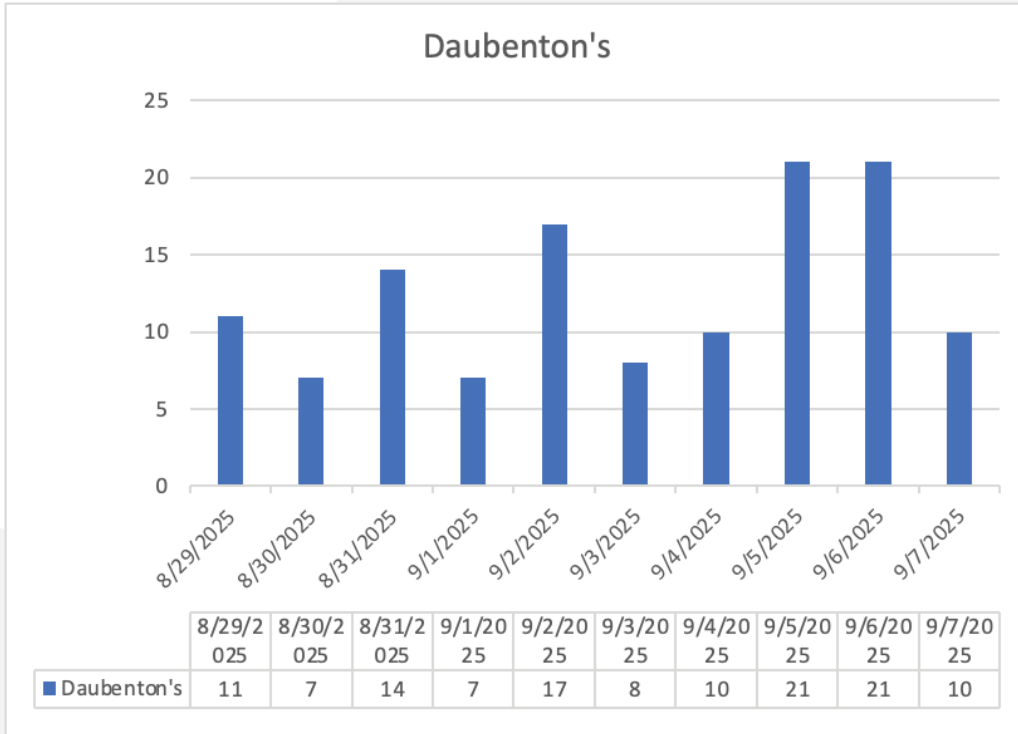


Figure 103: Daubenton's Daily Bat Passes

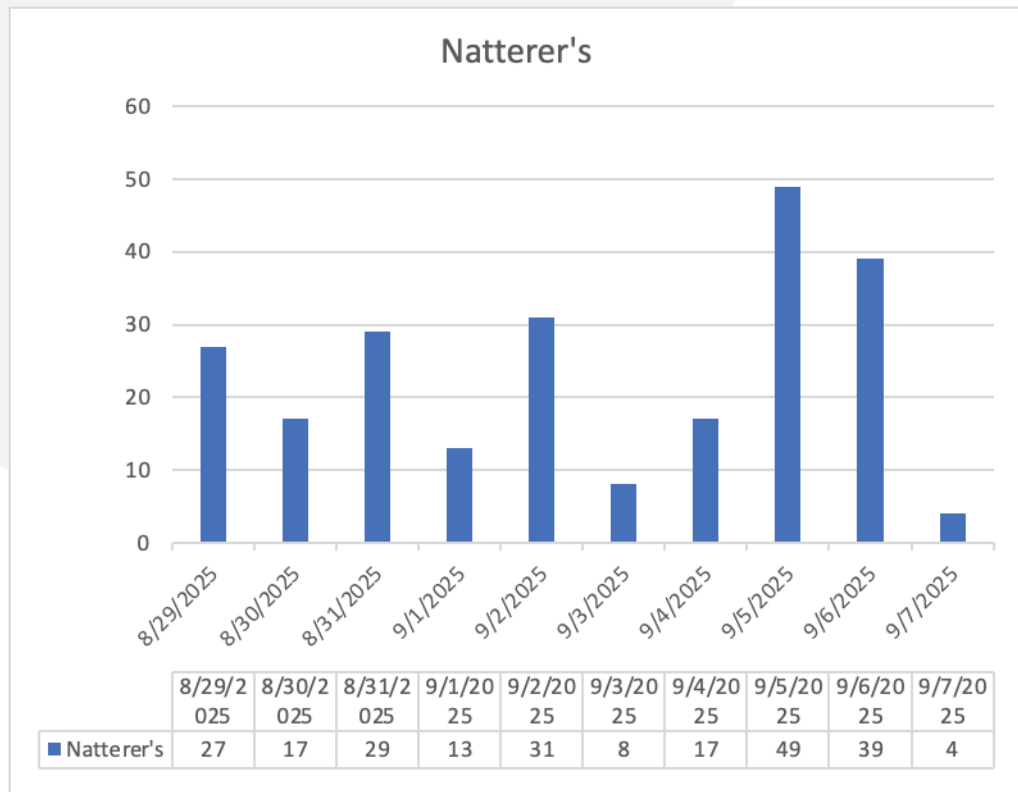


Figure 104: Natterer's Daily Bat Passes

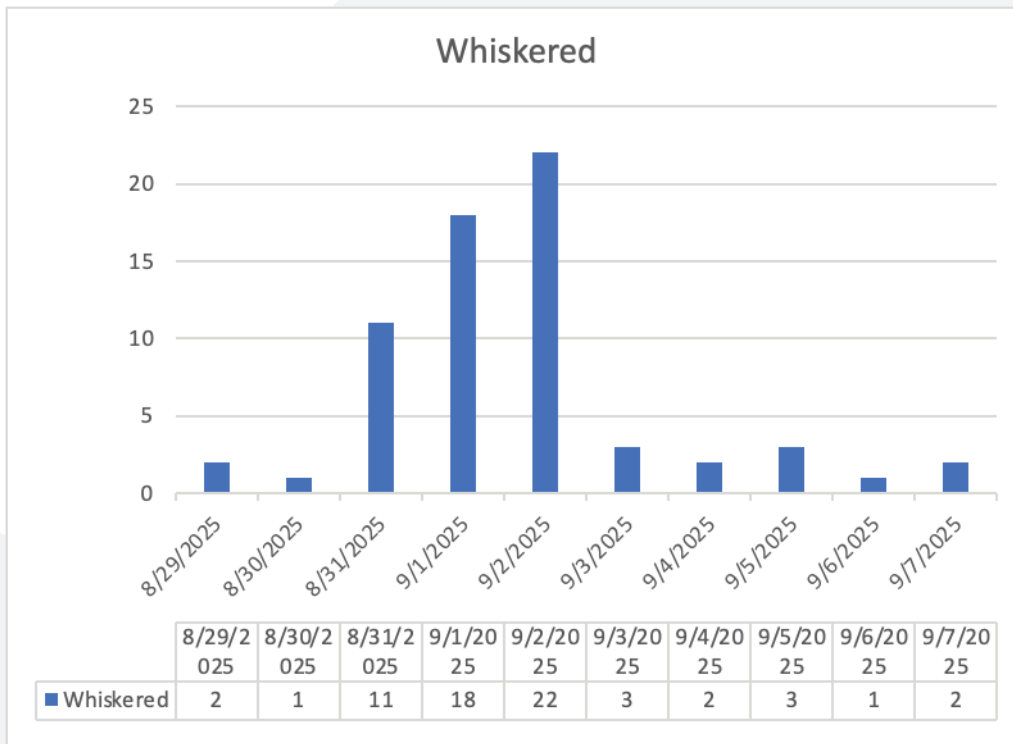


Figure 105: Whiskered Daily Bat Passes

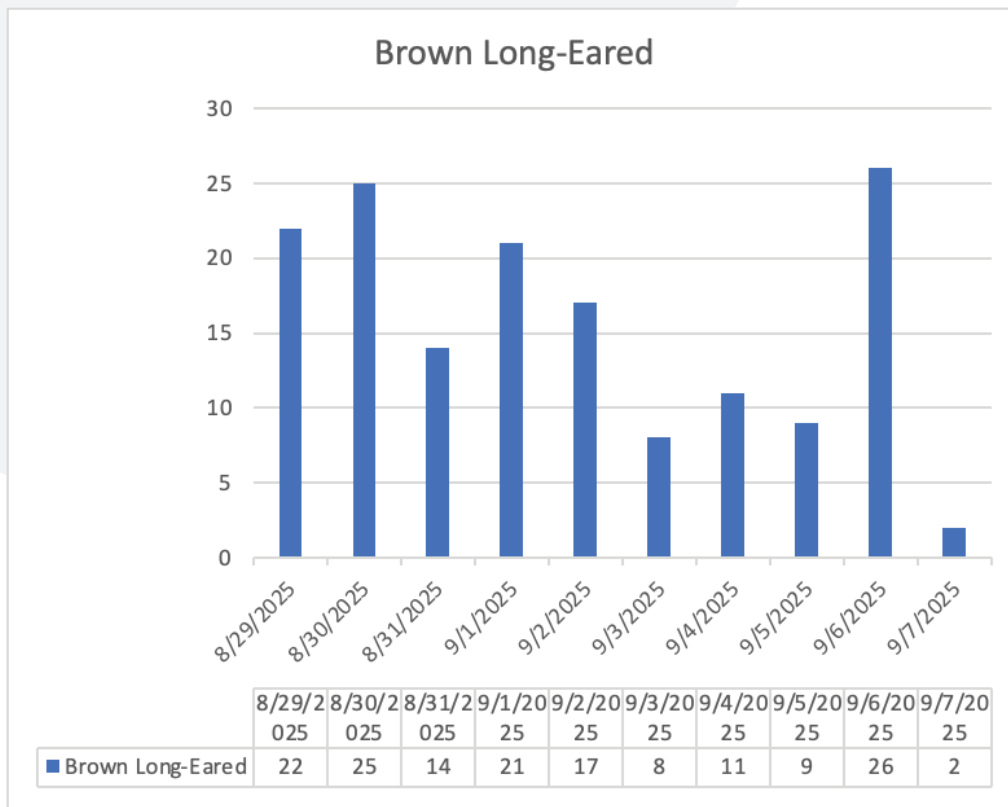


Figure 106: Brown Long-eared Daily Bat Passes

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Hourly Bat Passes

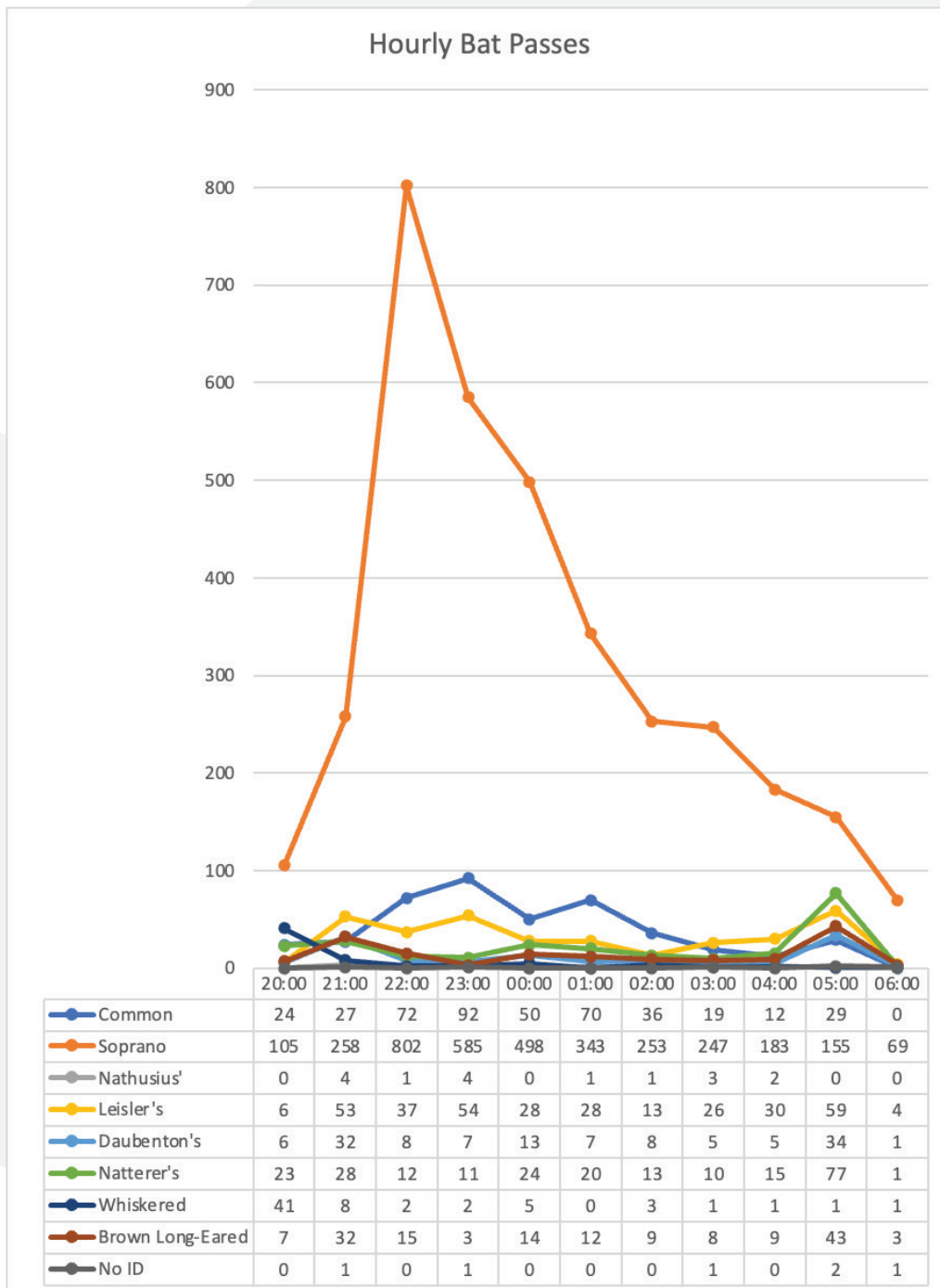


Figure 107: Hourly Bat Passes



Figure 108: Strokestown House - Gate to Servant's Tunnel - courtesy of Áine Fenner.

Summary

The project ran from 28/08/2025 to 07/09/2025 and in total, 4869 bat passes were recorded. The weather during deployment was variable with high rainfall on August 30th and September 3rd. Temperatures were a little above average at the end of August, but dipped below average at the start of September until around September 6th (information from met.ie).

The majority of the identified bats were Soprano pipistrelles with 3498 passes; it is possible that there is a roost nearby with so many sound files attributed to this species. The next most abundant were Leisler's bats (338) and Natterer's Bats accounting for 234 passes. Only 16 of passes were attributed to Nathusius' pipistrelle bats.

All eight of the possible eight species at this location were identified.

COUNTY SLIGO (MIDLAND BAT GROUP)

KESH CAVES, COUNTY SLIGO

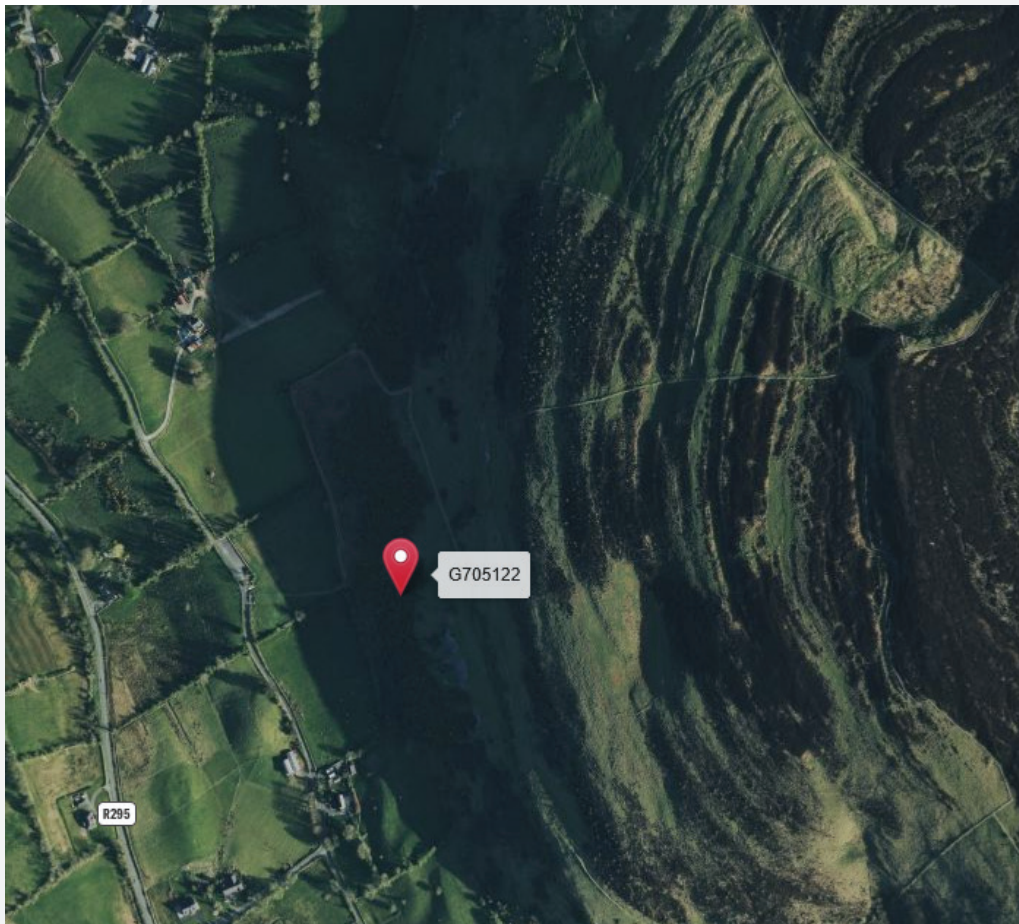


Figure 109: Kesh Caves County Sligo – courtesy of irish.gridreferencefinder.com

Kesh Caves are a series of limestone caves situated on the west side of Keshcorran Hill (part of the Bricklieve Mountains) and consist of sixteen simple chambers, some of them interconnecting.

Only one species of bat was recorded at Kesh Caves, this was Natterer's Bat. There were 131 bat passes recorded in total.

Daily Bat Passes

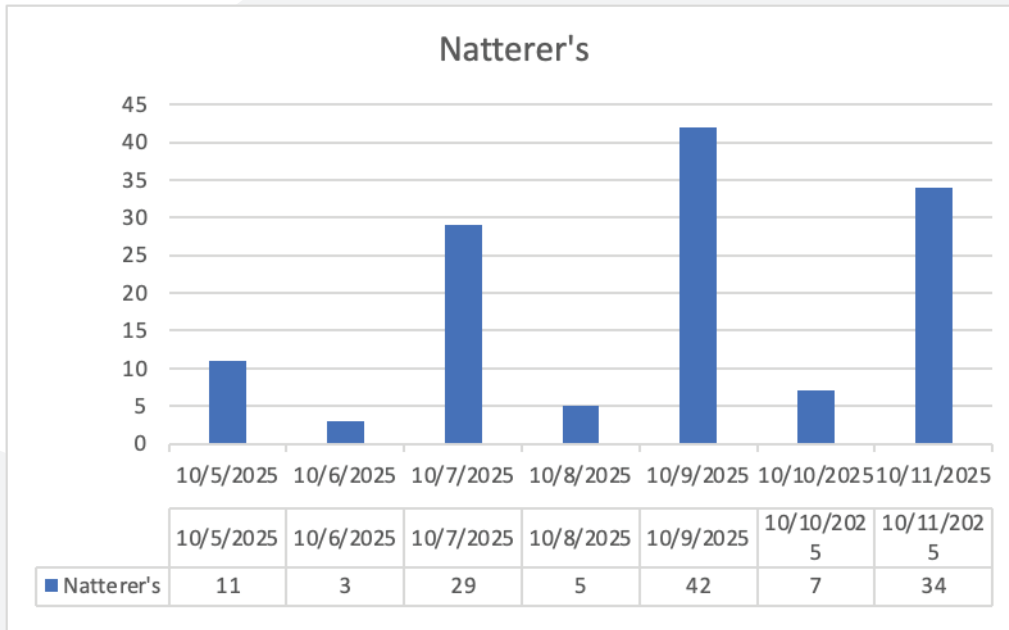


Figure 110: Natterer's Daily Bat Passes

Hourly Bat Passes

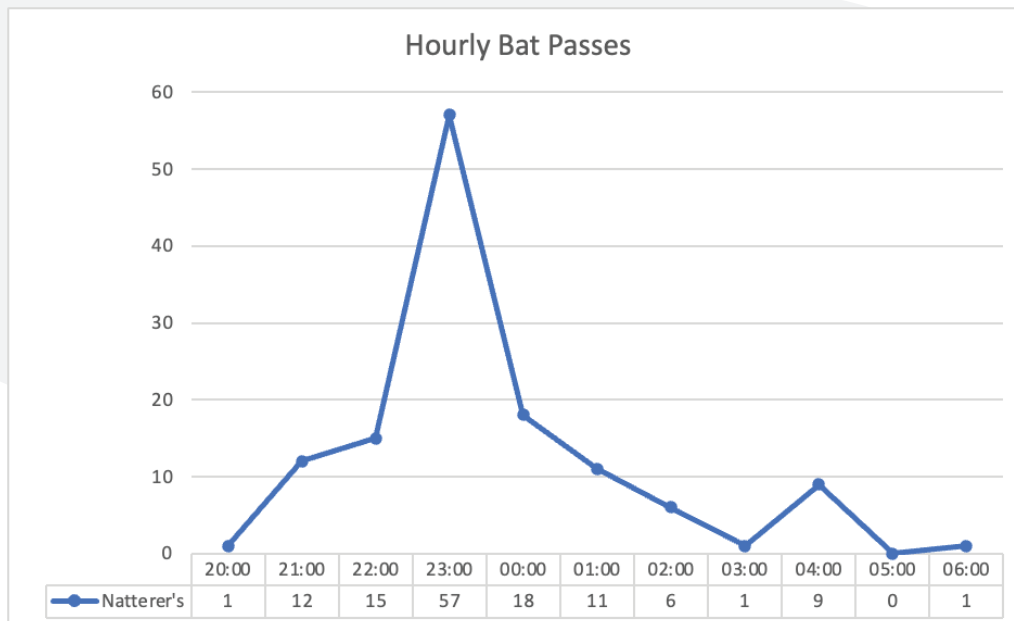


Figure 111: Hourly Bat Passes



Figure 112: Habitat surrounding Kesh Caves County Sligo – courtesy of Áine Fenner

Summary

The Song Meter Mini Bat was in position from 05/10/2025 to 11/10/2025. Weather conditions during deployment were mostly slightly milder than average, with some patchy rainfall on most days. Winds were strongest in the early days of deployment with near gale force winds on 5th October due to Storm Amy which had passed over Ireland at that point (met.ie).

In total, there were 131 Natterer's bat passes identified. They were most abundant at 23:00 which is a few hours after sunset. While the number of bat passes was not exceptional, this late peak in activity is typical of autumn swarming behaviour when bats may have travelled to the swarming site from elsewhere after emergence.

Midland Bat Group also deployed a detector at Owennagat Cave in Rathcroghan for 7 days, however, no bats were recorded at this location.

COUNTY OFFALY (OFFALY BAT GROUP)

SITE 1: ACRES FOLLY, TULLAMORE

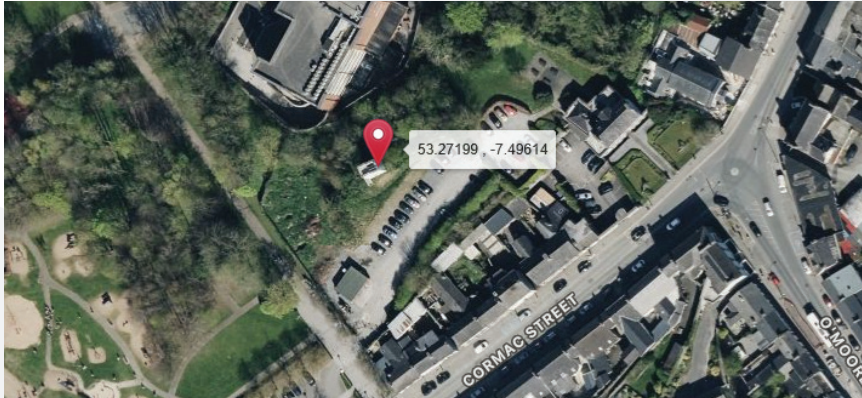


Figure 113: Location of Acres Folly, Tullamore – courtesy of irish.gridreferencefinder.com

Acres Folly is a tower-like structure that was constructed in the early 1800s. The purpose of the building is unclear. Local tradition suggests that it was built to commemorate a victory of the Duke of Wellington over Napoleon. The building is situated within a town park which is itself surrounded by urban roads and built land. Green pasture fields along the Tullamore River are approximately 500m from the building.

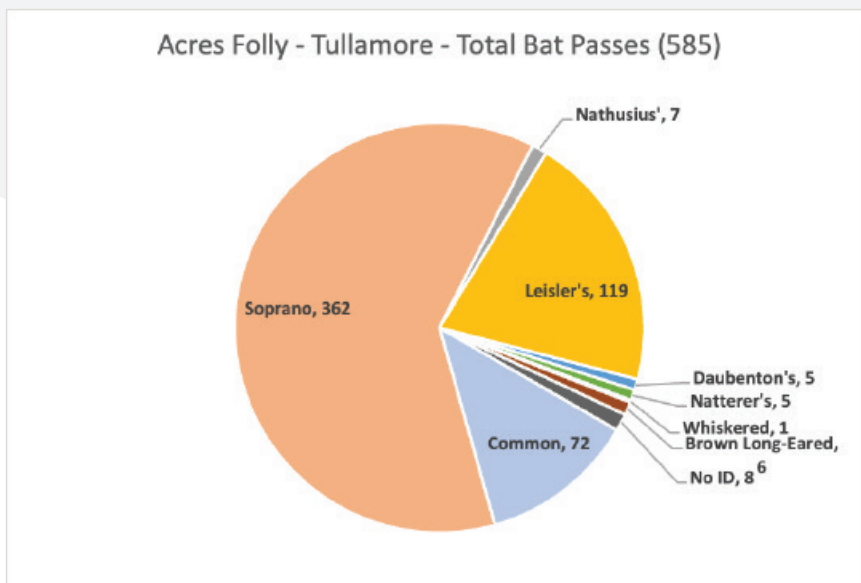


Figure 114: Acres Folly Total Bat Passes

Daily Bat Pass Counts

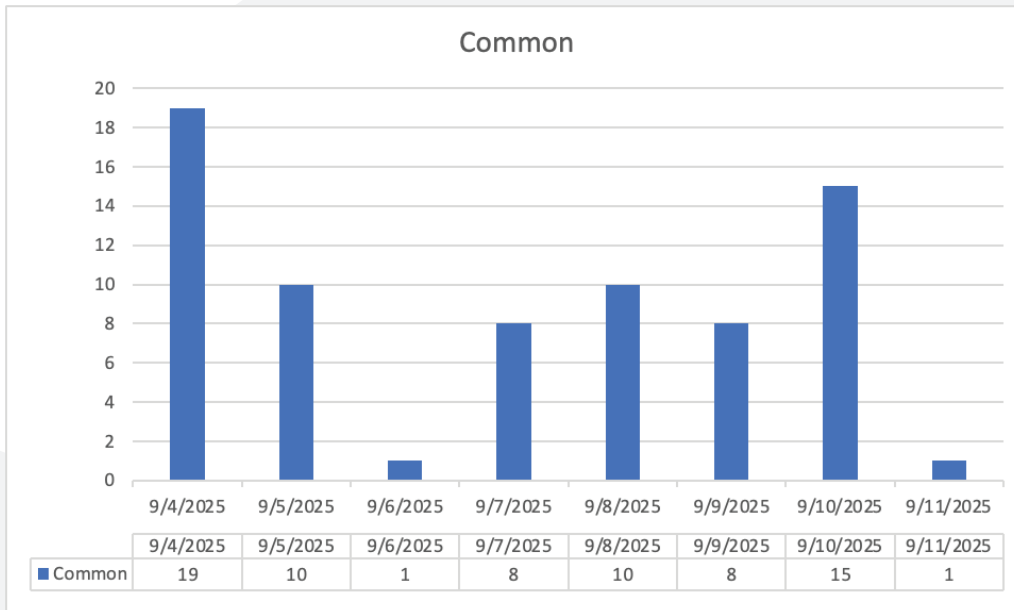


Figure 115: Common Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

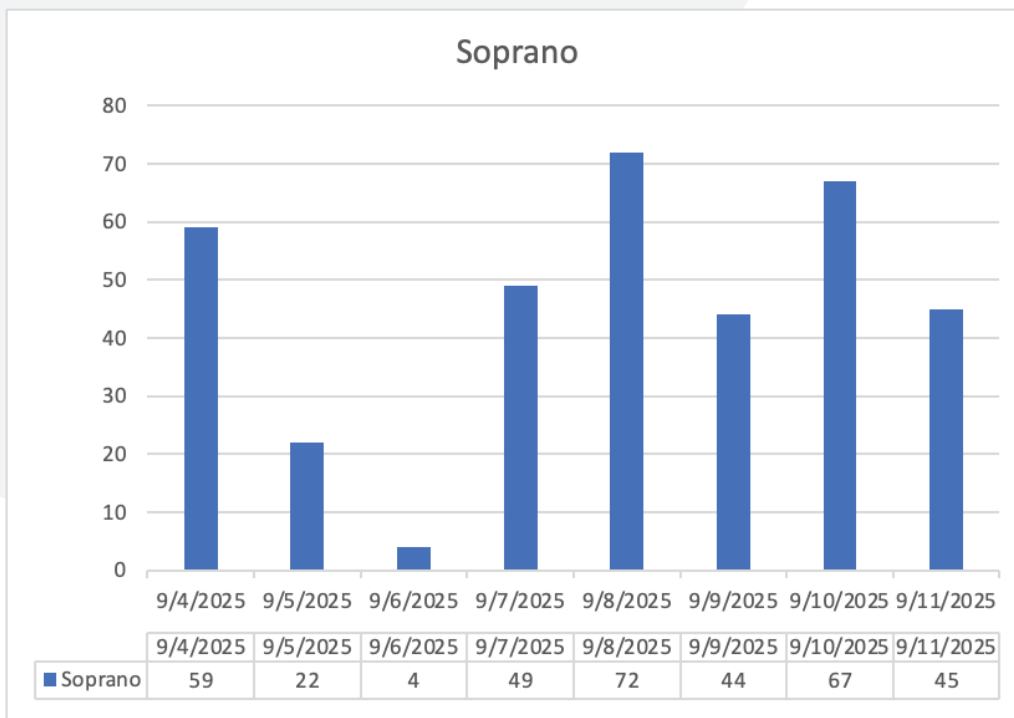


Figure 116: Soprano Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

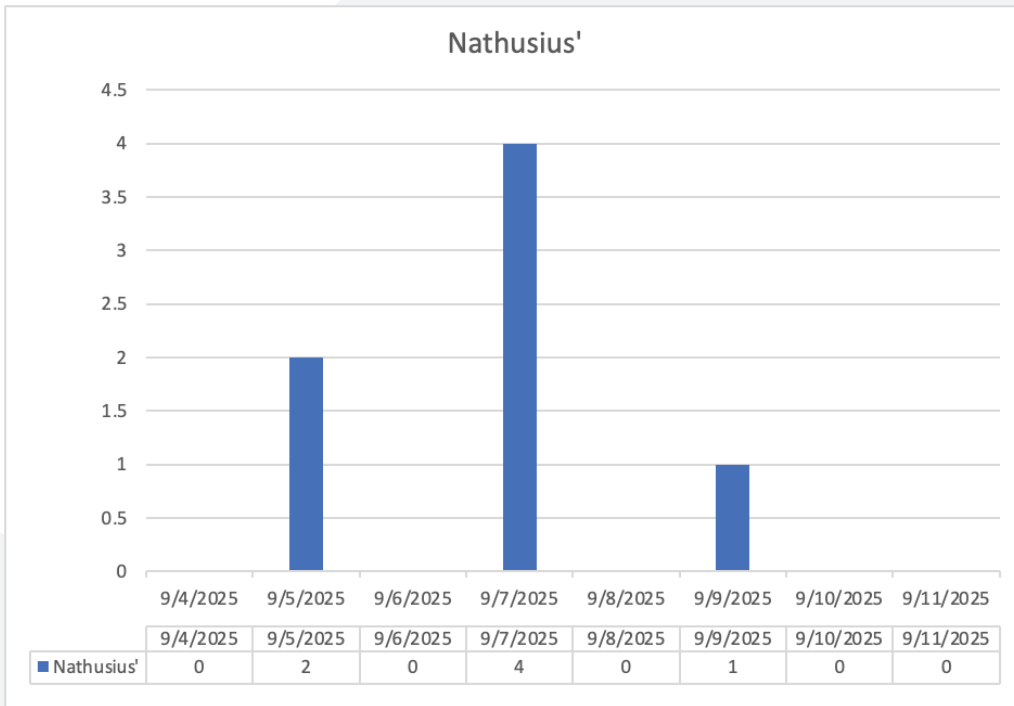


Figure 117: Nathusius Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

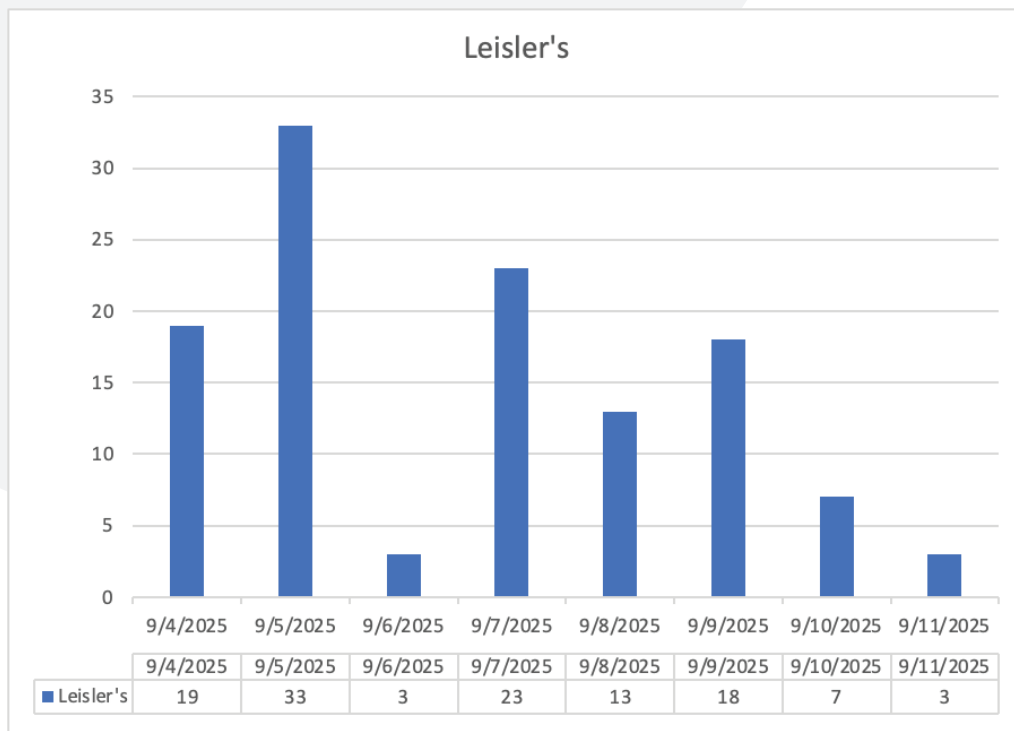


Figure 118: Leisler's Daily Bat Passes

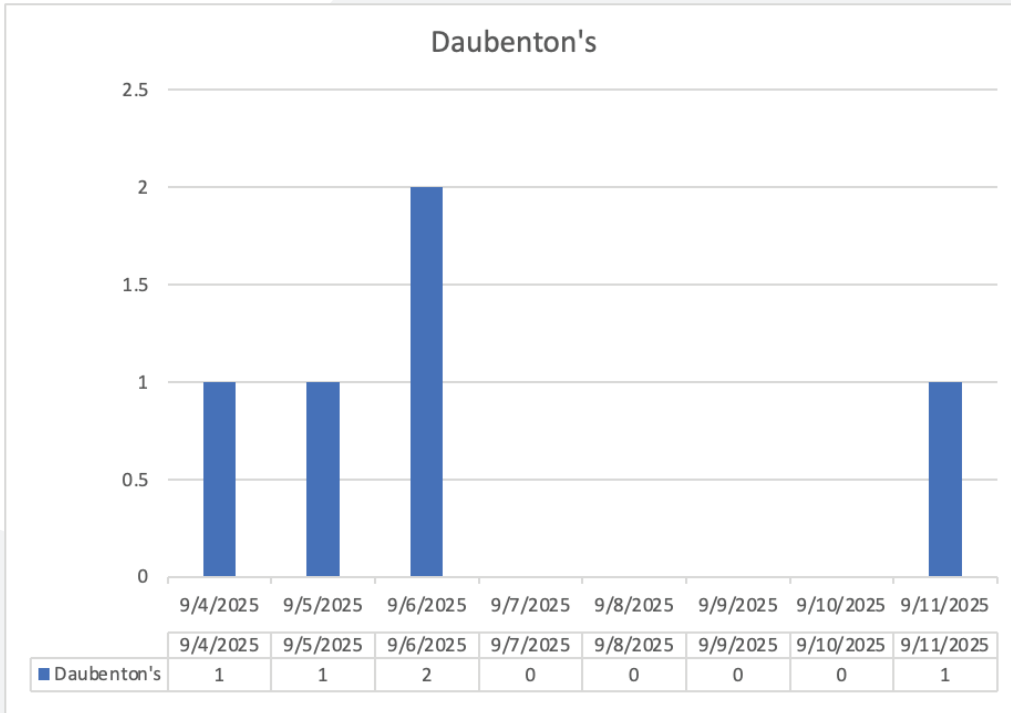


Figure 119: Daubenton's Daily Bat Passes

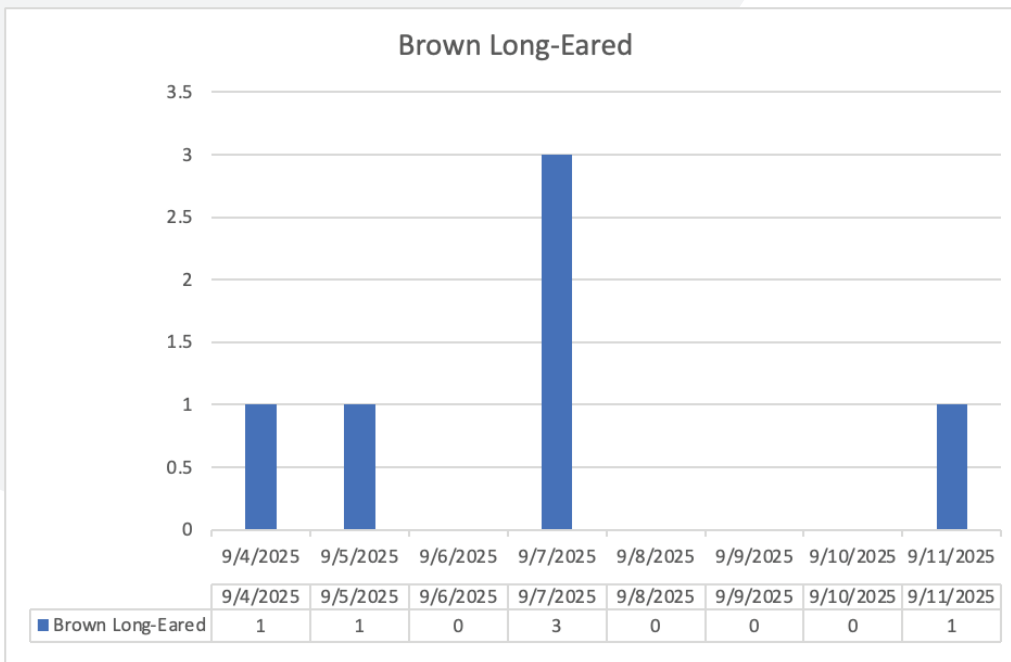


Figure 120: Brown Long-eared Daily Bat Passes

Hourly Bat Passes

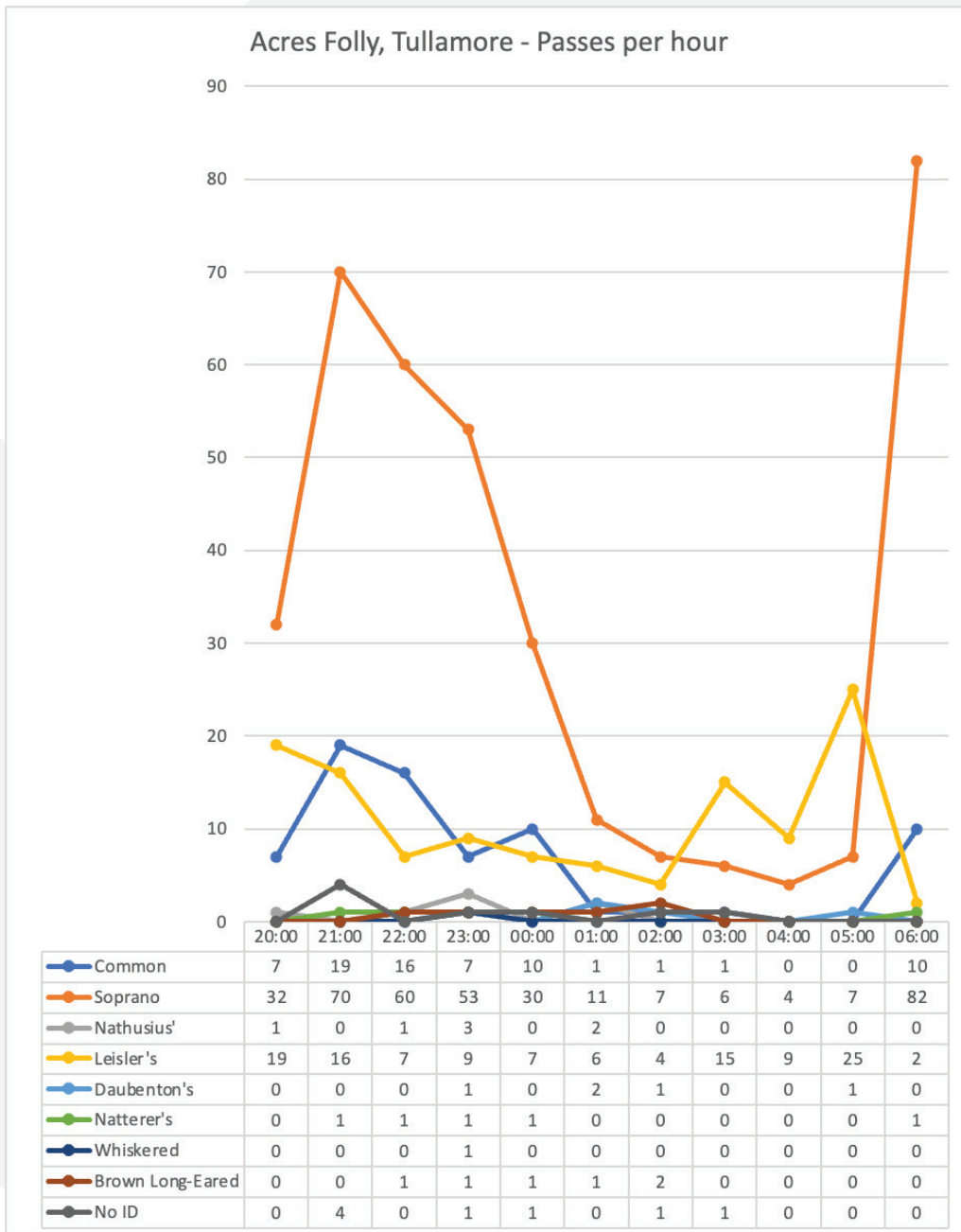


Figure 121: Hourly Bat Passes

Summary

The Song Meter Mini Bat was in place from 04/09/2025 to 11/09/2025. Weather was showery throughout the duration of detector deployment with windy weather on the 9th and to a lesser extent on the 10th. Temperatures were generally above the longterm average, with the exception of the 8th of September when they dipped below average (information from met.ie).

The most abundant passes identified were those of Soprano pipistrelles with 362 passes. Leisler's bats were the next most prolific with 119 passes, followed by Common pipistrelles with 72 passes. There were very few Myotis, Brown Long-Eared or Nathusius' pipistrelles identified. It is possible that there is a Soprano pipistrelle roost near to the bat detector location.



Leisler's bat. Photograph by Paul van Hoof.

**SITE 2: EDENDERRY LIBRARY, EDENDERRY,
TULLAMORE, COUNTY OFFALY**



Figure 122: Edenderry Library - courtesy of irish.gridreferencefinder.com

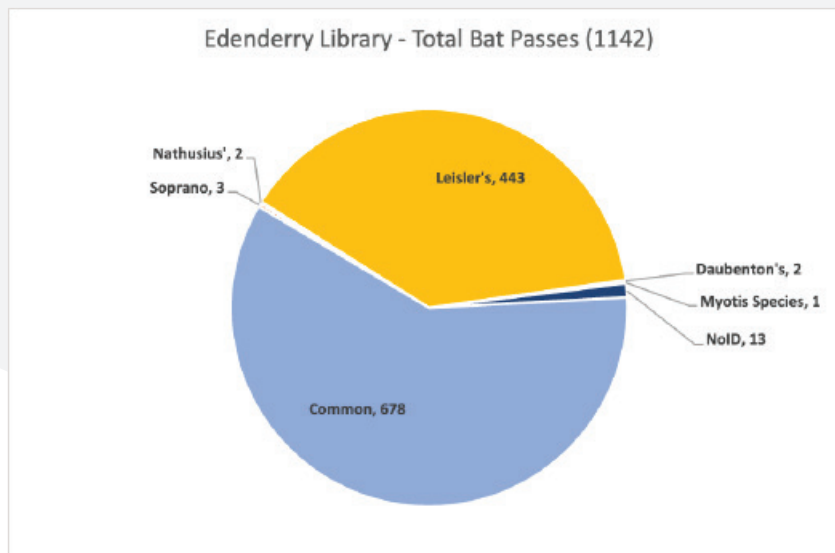


Figure 123: Edenderry Library Total Bat Passes

Daily Bat Passes

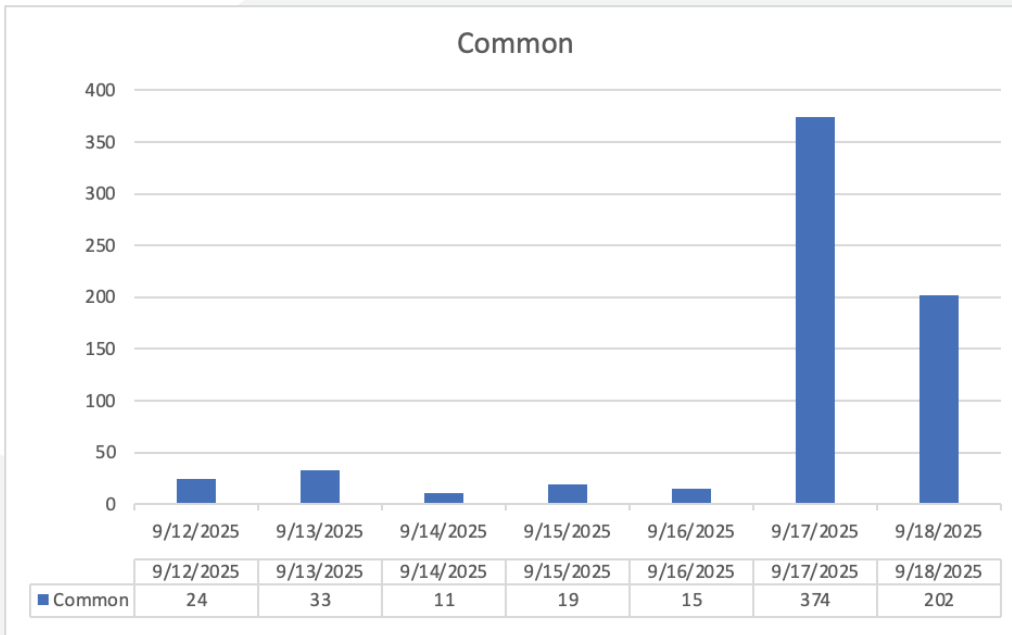


Figure 124: Common Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

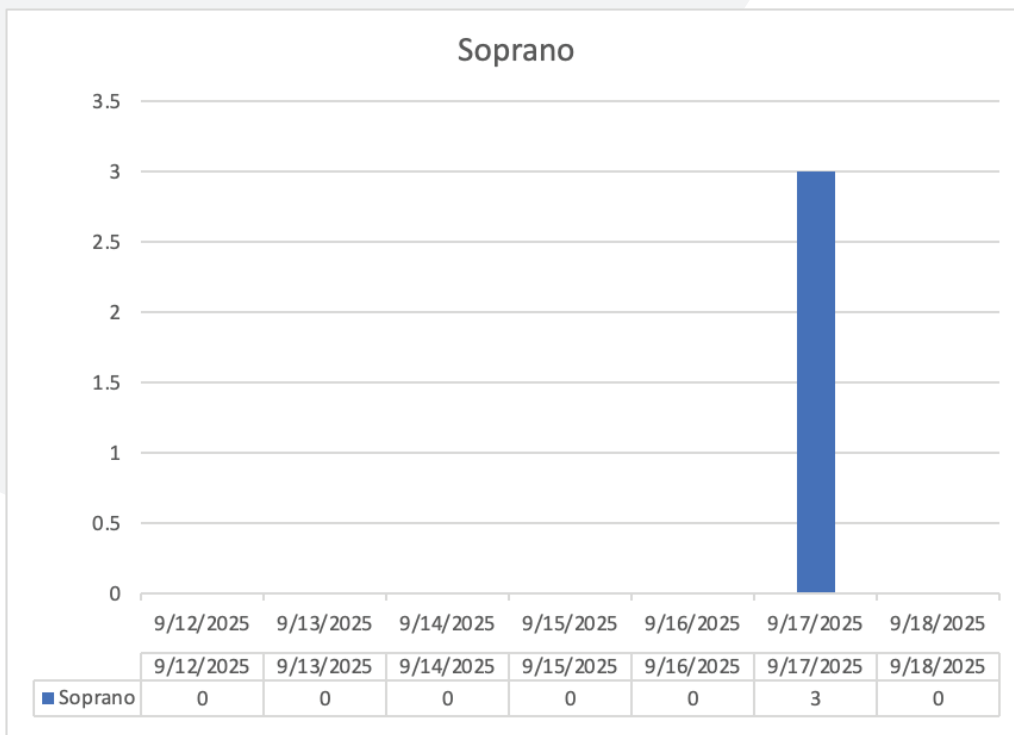


Figure 125: Soprano Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

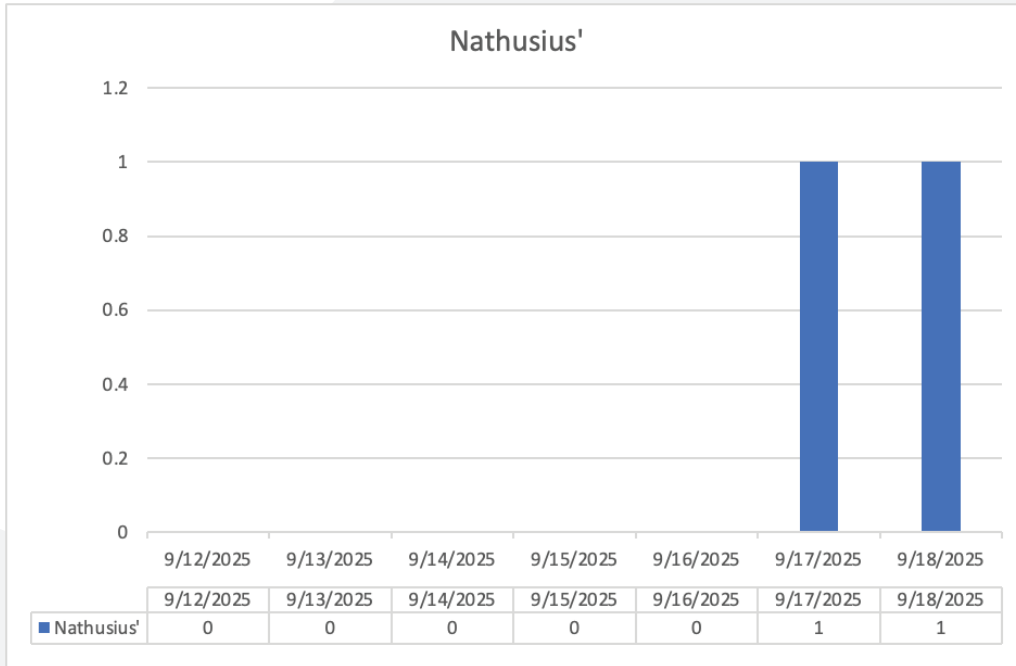


Figure 126: Nathusius' Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

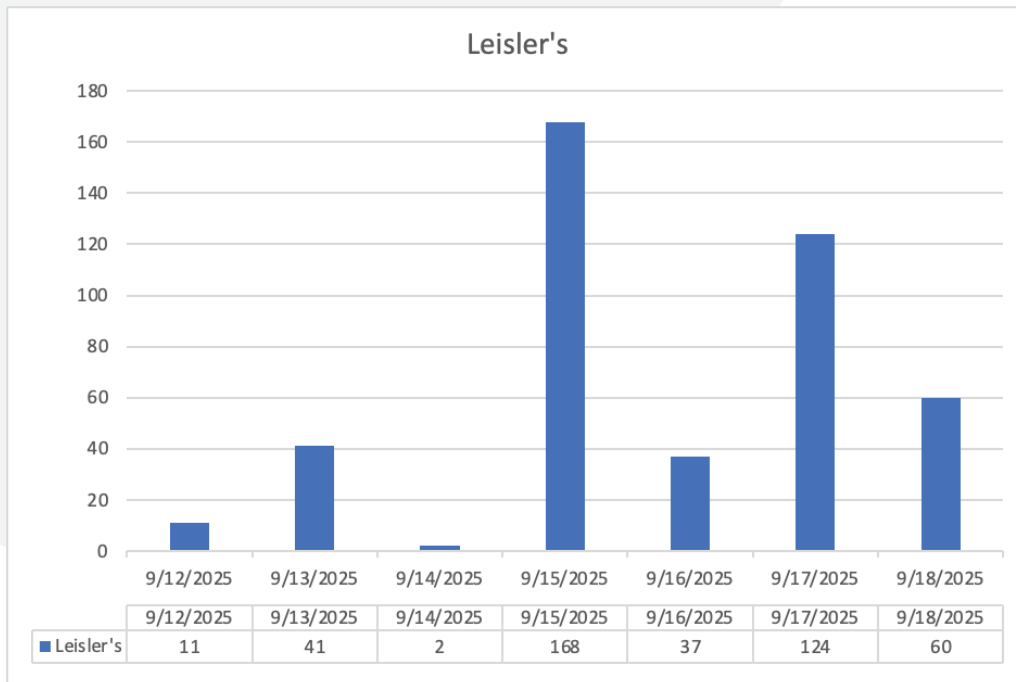


Figure 127: Leisler's Daily Bat Passes

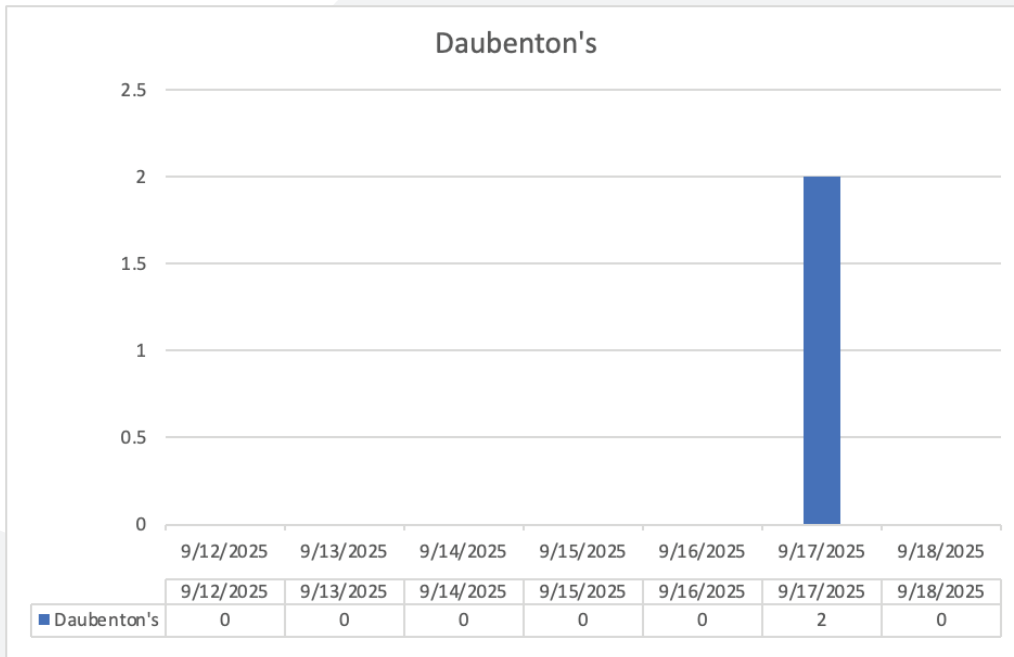


Figure 128: Daubenton's Daily Bat Passes



Common pipistrelle bat. Photograph by Paul van Hoof.

Hourly Bat Passes

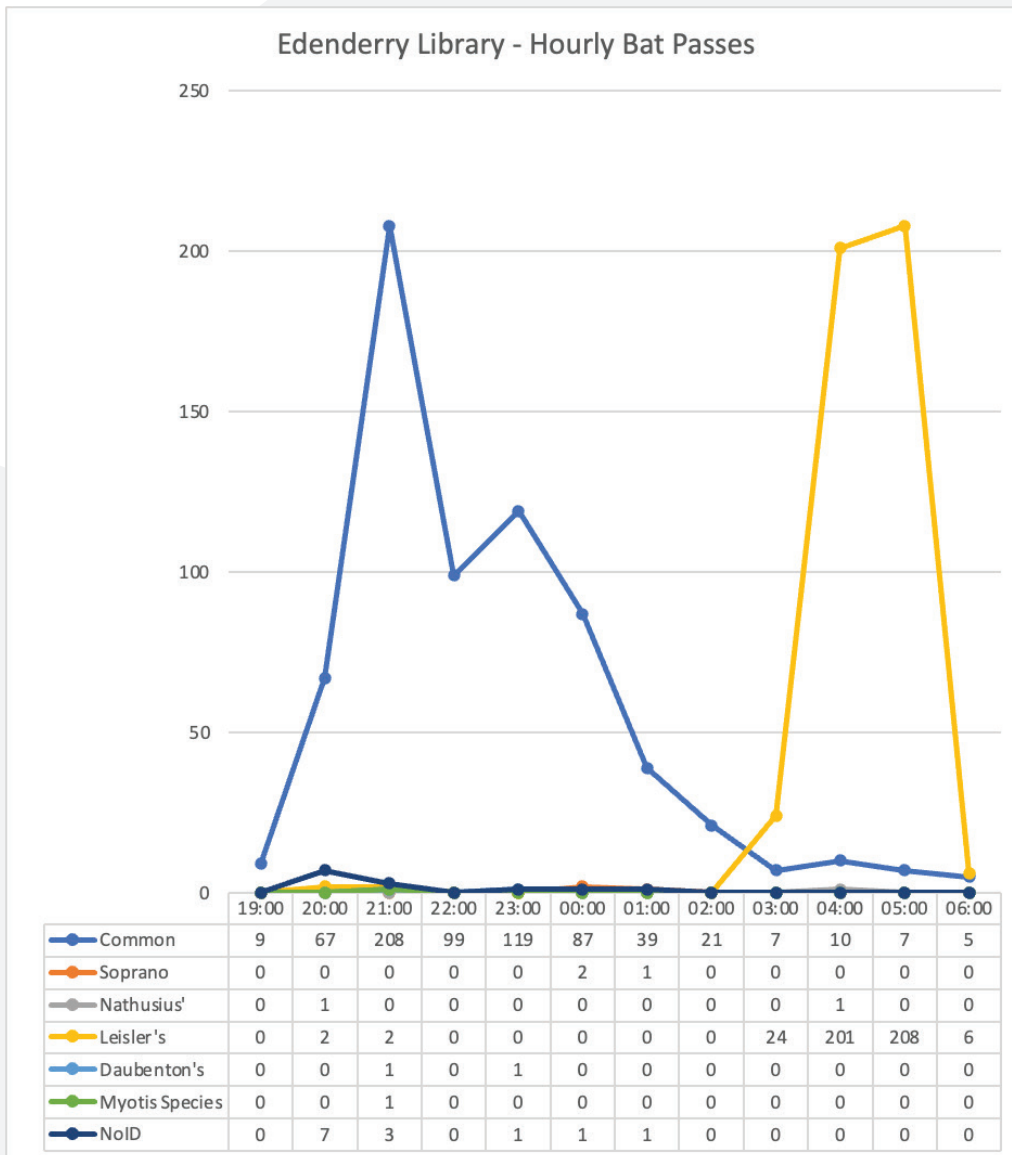


Figure 129: Hourly Bat Passes

Summary

There were 1142 bat passes recorded from 12/09/2025 to 18/09/2025. Weather conditions were initially cooler and windier than average on the first couple of days, but temperatures increased to above average from the 14th September. Some rain was recorded on most days with high rainfall on September 16th. There were five of the possible eight species identified

COUNTY TIPPERARY (KILDARE BAT GROUP)

SITE 1: MONASTERY ORCHARD



Figure 130: Monastery Orchard Tipperary – courtesy of irish.gridreferencefinder.com

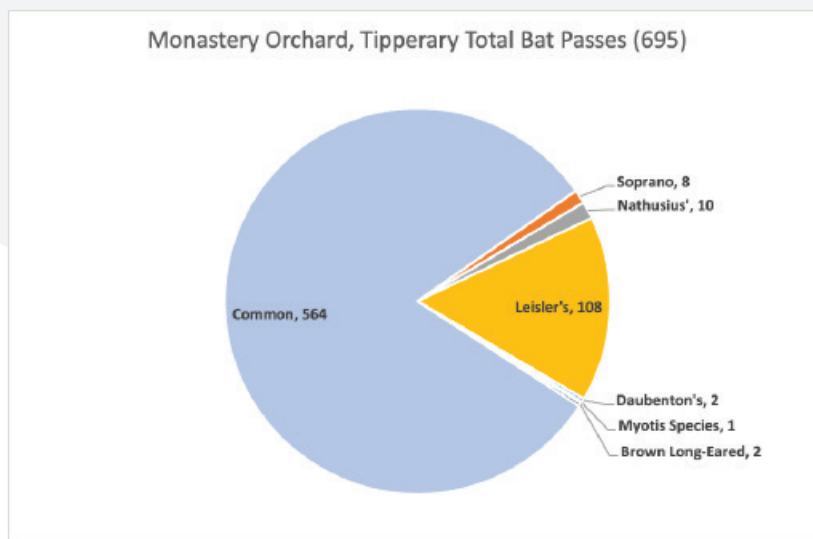


Figure 131: Monastery Orchard Total Bat Passes

Daily Bat Passes

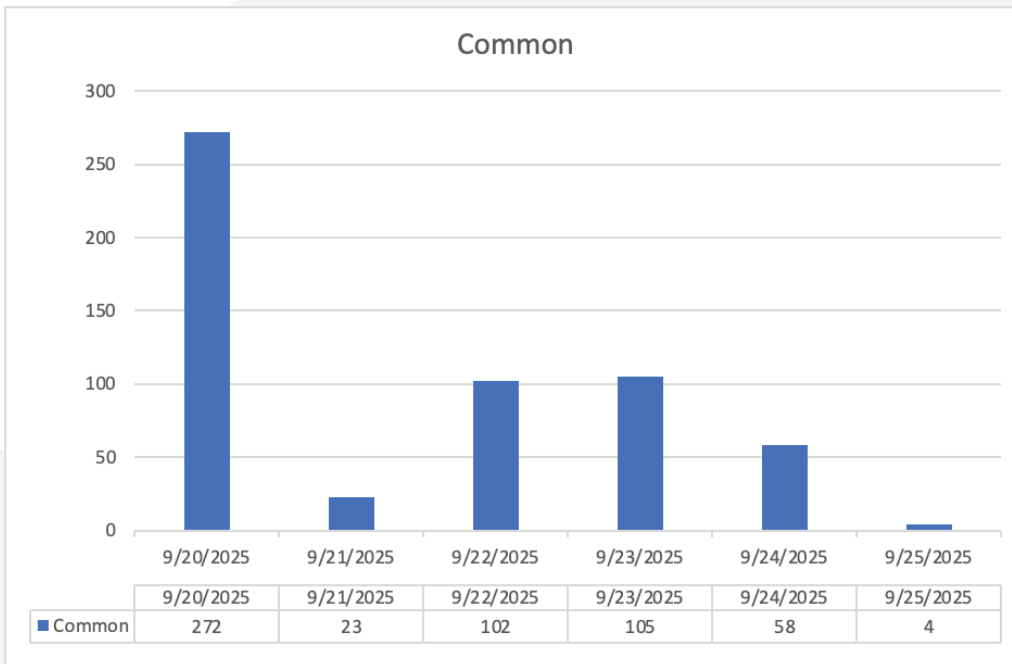


Figure 132: Common Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

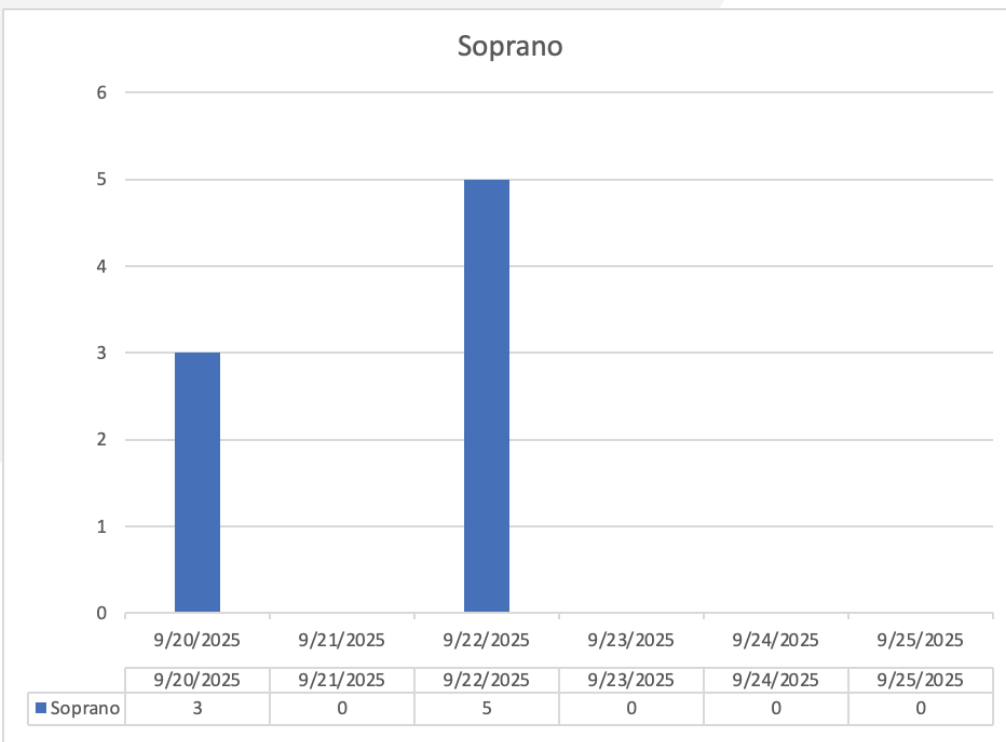


Figure 133: Soprano Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

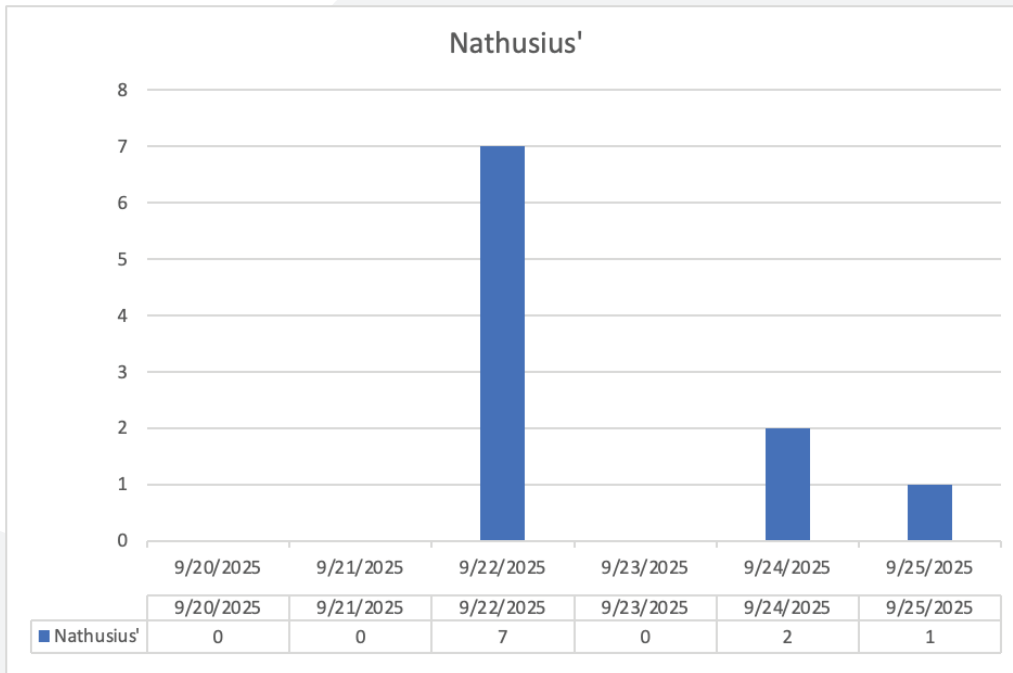


Figure 134: Nathusius' Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

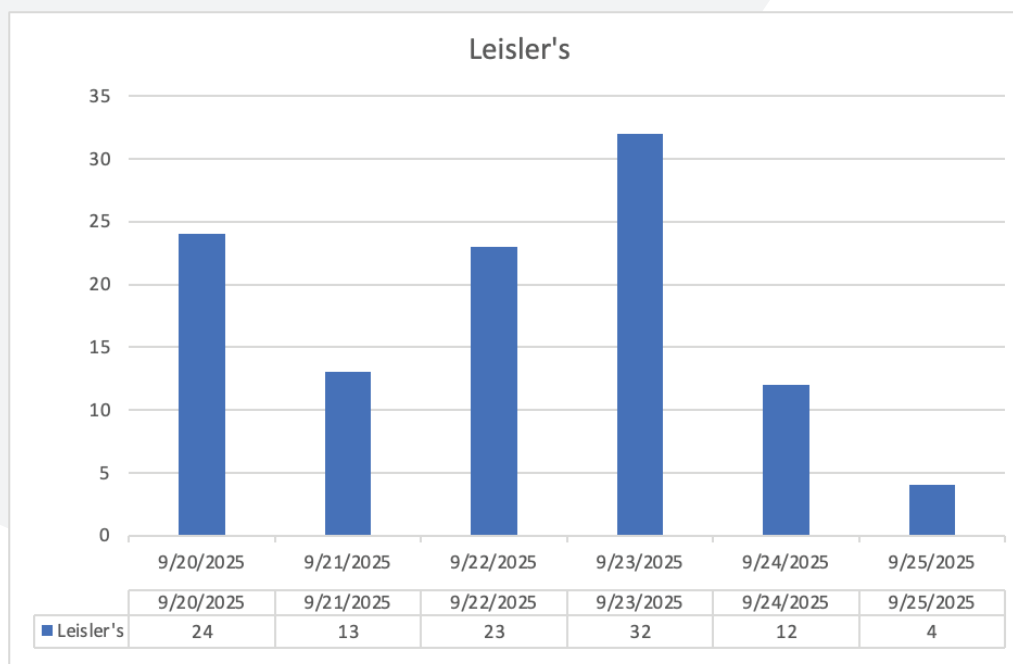


Figure 135: Leisler's Daily Bat Passes

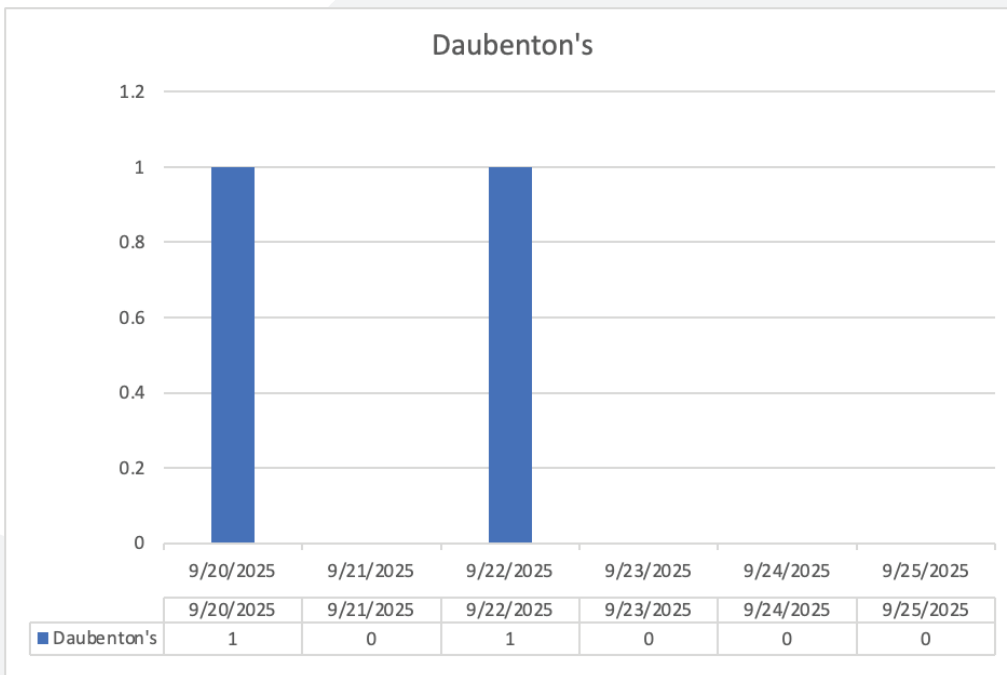


Figure 136: Daubenton's Daily Bat Passes

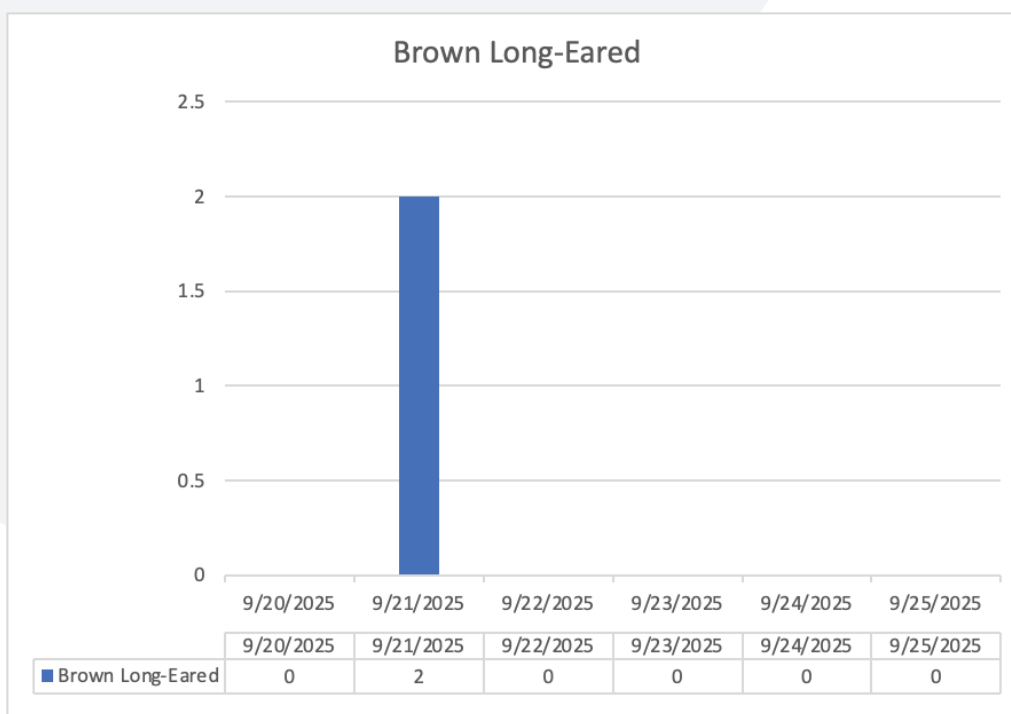


Figure 137: Brown Long-eared Daily Bat Passes

Hourly Bat Passes

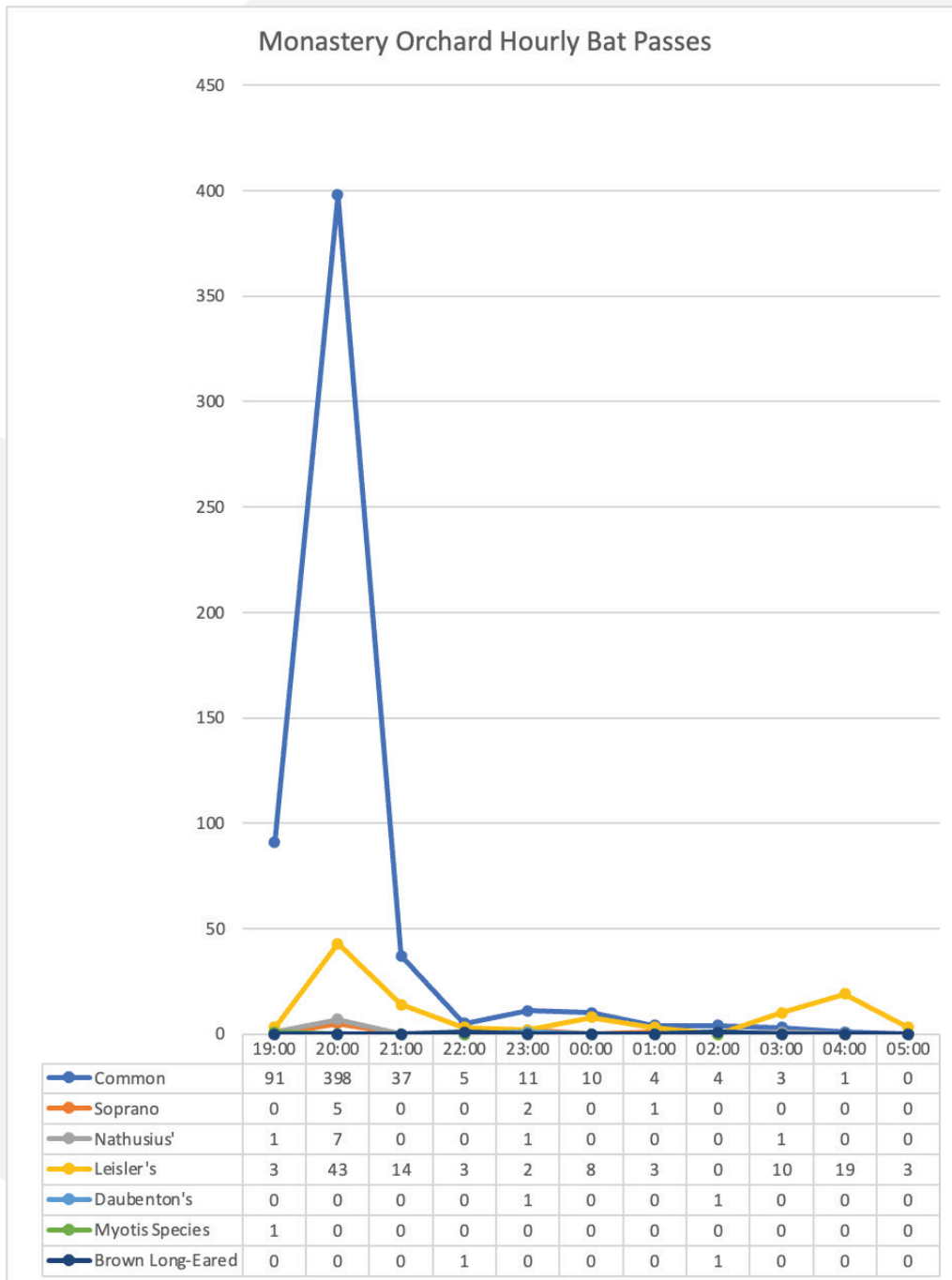


Figure 138: Hourly Bat Passes

Summary



Figure 139: Song meter mini deployed in Monastery Orchard, photographer unknown

The Song Meter Mini Bat was deployed from 20/09/2025 to 25/09/2025 in Tipperary Monastery Orchard. Weather during the deployment was wet with some windy weather on the first couple of days. Weather during the second half of the deployment was calmer. Temperatures were lower than the long-term average for most of the deployment with ground frosts recorded on most nights.

Six of the possible eight species of bat were identified with a total of 695 bat passes recorded. 564 of them were attributed to Common pipistrelle bats and 108 to Leisler's. Soprano pipistrelle, Nathusius' pipistrelle, Daubenton's and Brown Long-Eared all had very small numbers of bat passes recorded. Common pipistrelles may roost nearby.

SITE 2: TEMPLEMORE GARDENS, TIPPERARY (KILDARE BAT GROUP)



Figure 140: Templemore Gardens County Tipperary – courtesy of irish.gridreferencefinder.com

This site is situated in an urban park close to the town of Templemore. There is a lake and area of deciduous woodland close by, as well as sports fields and agricultural fields in the vicinity.

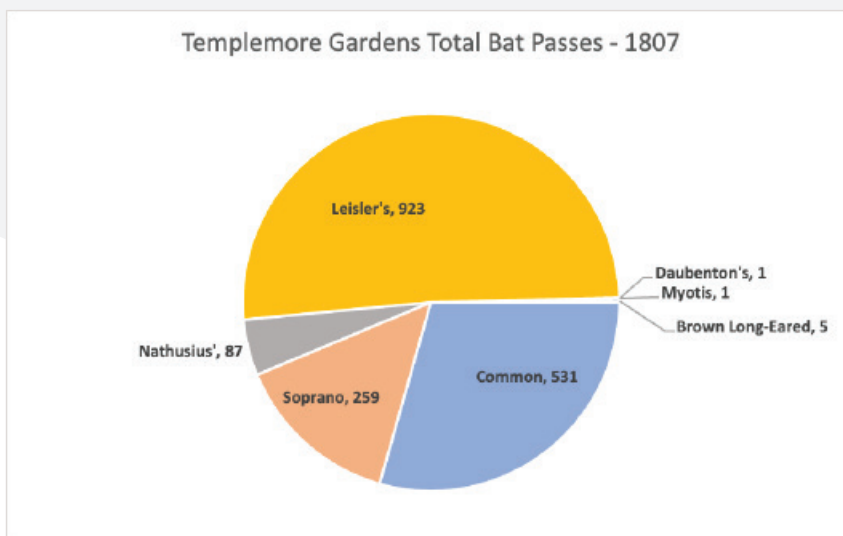


Figure 141: Templemore Gardens Total Bat Passes

Daily Bat Pass Counts

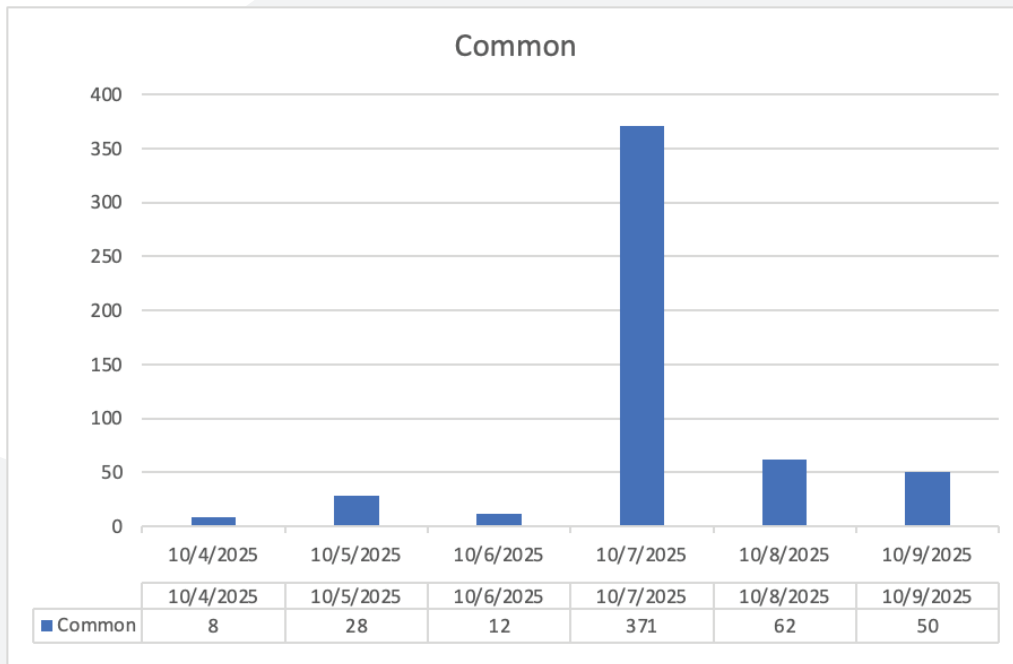


Figure 142: Common Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

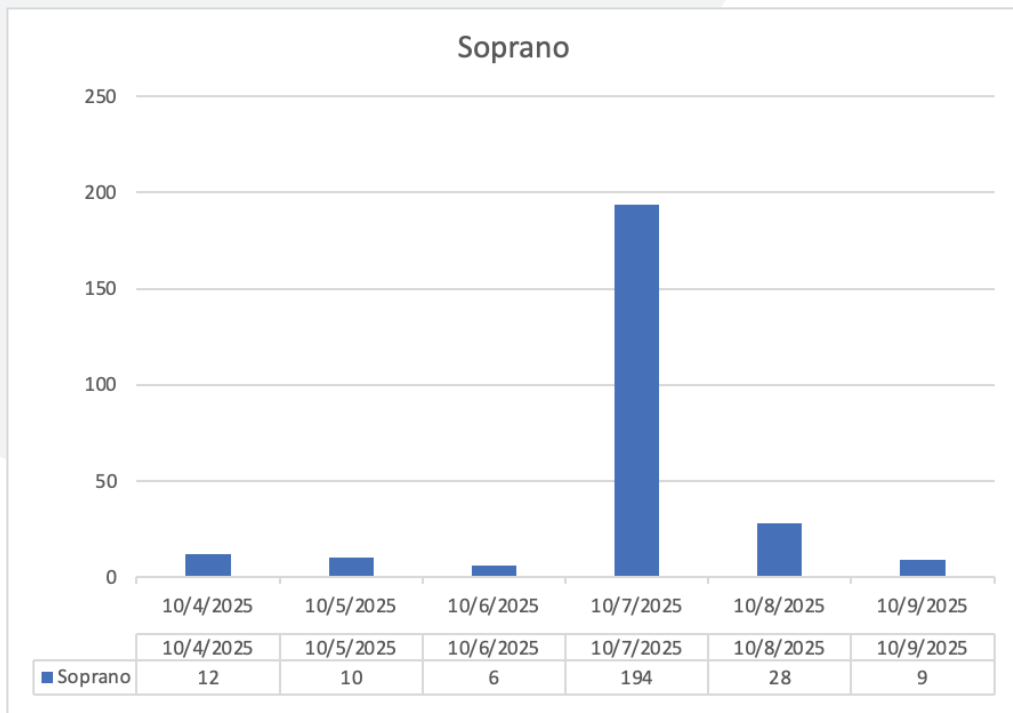


Figure 143: Soprano Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

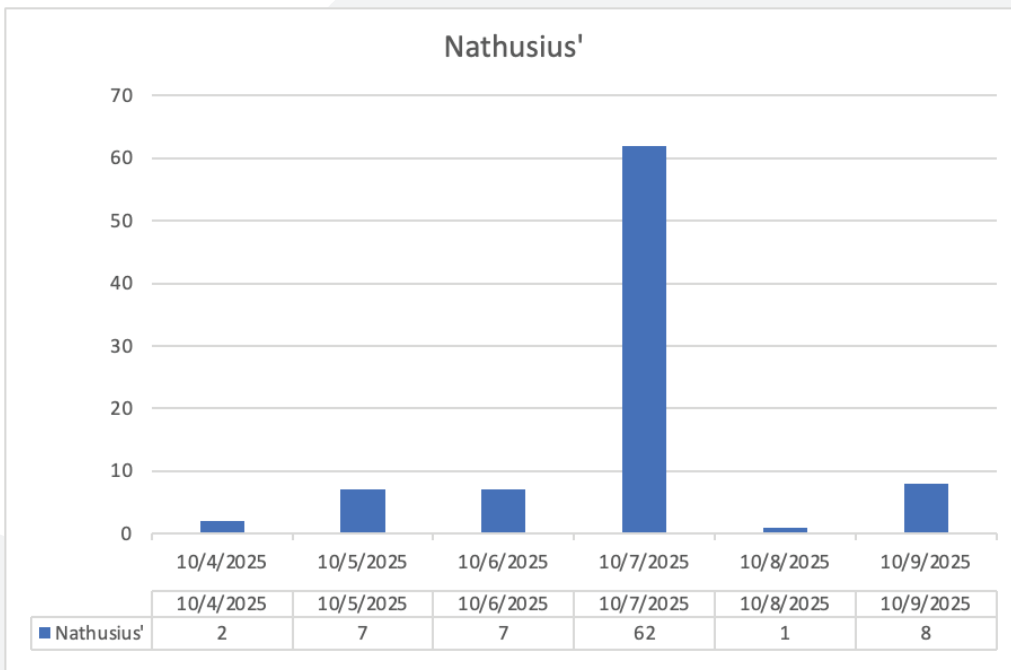


Figure 144: Nathusius' Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

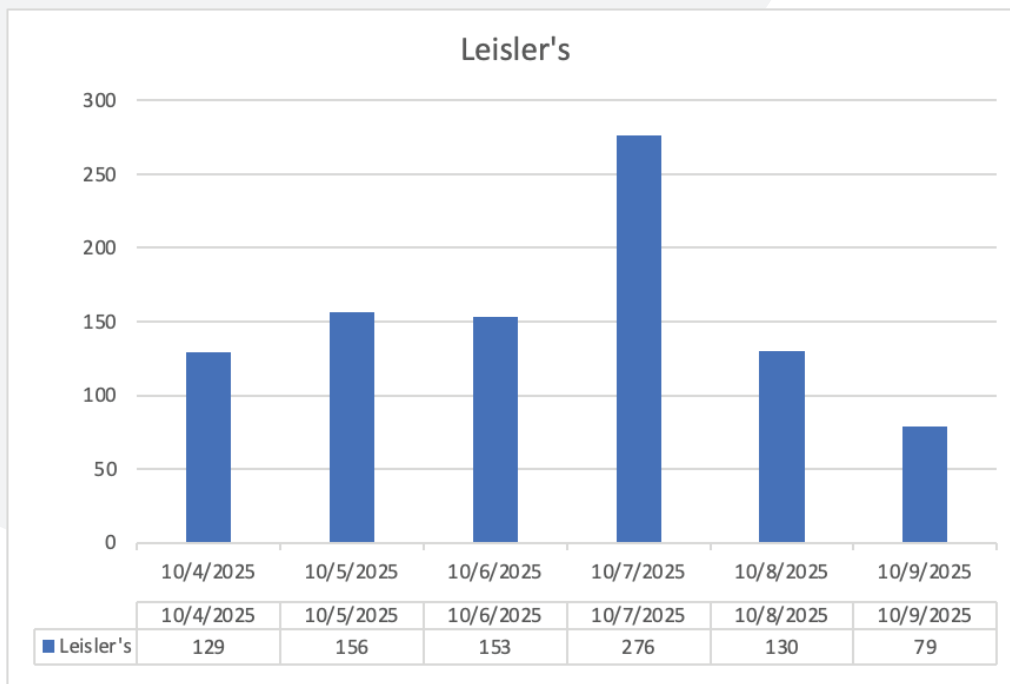


Figure 145: Leisler's Daily Bat Passes

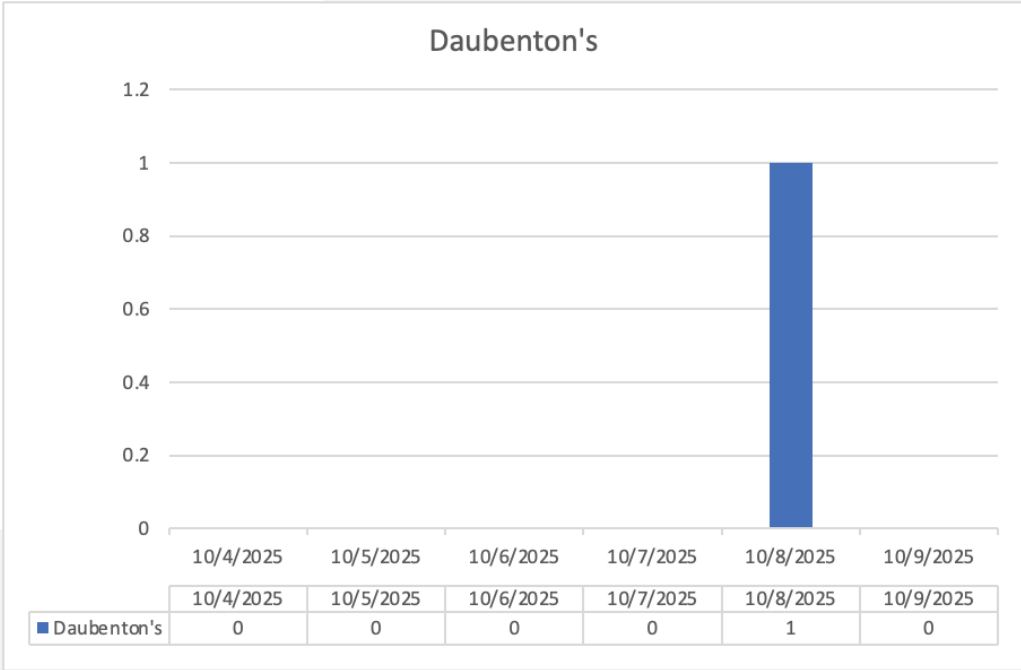


Figure 146: Daubenton's Daily Bat Passes

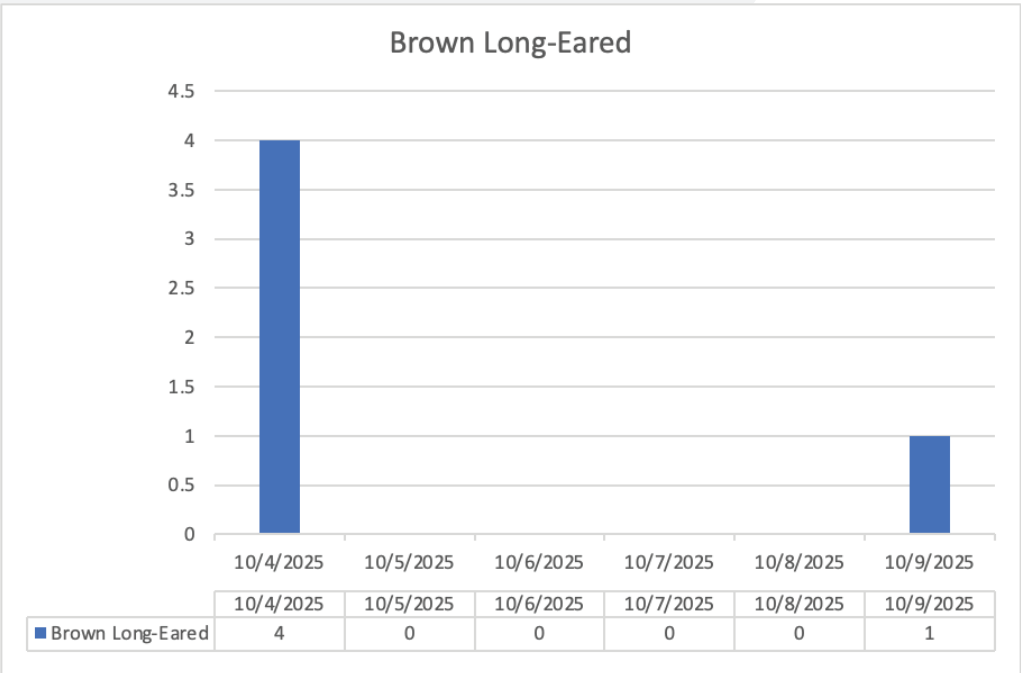


Figure 147: Brown Long-eared Daily Bat Passes

Hourly Bat Passes

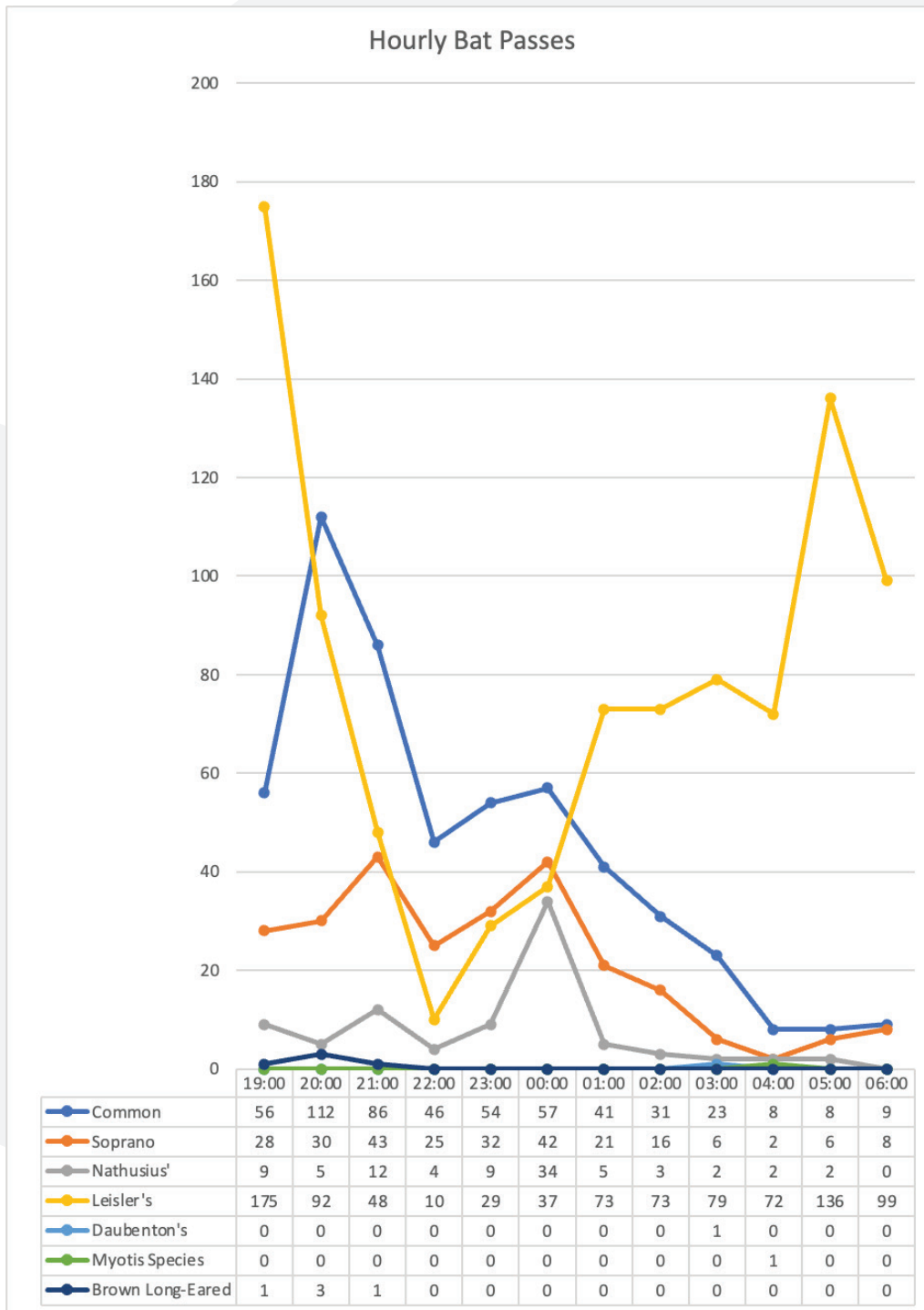


Figure 148: Hourly Bat Passes



Figure 149: Templemore Gardens Habitat – photographer unknown

Summary

The Song Meter Mini Bat was deployed from 04/10/2025 to 09/10/2025. Temperatures during the deployment were above the long-term average for most of the survey. The weather was largely dry although Storm Amy resulted in windy weather and some showers at the start of the survey (information from met.ie).

There were six of a possible eight species identified and 1807 bat passes recorded. The majority of the sound files (923) were identified as Leisler's Bats. It is possible that there is a Leisler's bat roost in the vicinity. Common pipistrelles accounted for 531 bat passes and Soprano pipistrelles for 259. There was a very low representation of Myotis bats with only 2 passes identified.

COUNTY WICKLOW (WICKLOW BAT GROUP)

SITE 1: MASS PATH, KILCOOLE



Figure 150: Mass Path Kilcoole – courtesy of irish.gridreferencefinder.com

While the urban centre of Kilcoole is close by, the mass path is mainly situated within linear woodland/hedgerows and surrounded by intensive agricultural land.

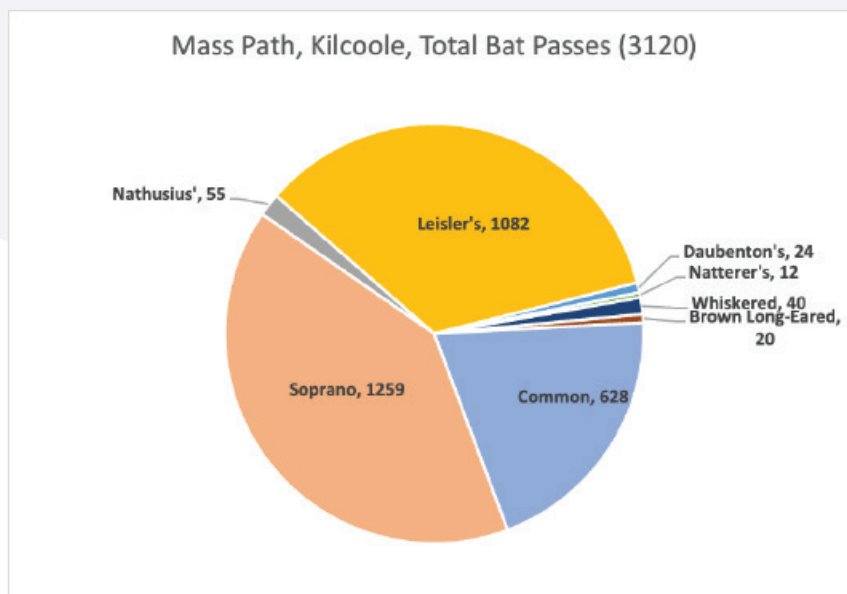


Figure 151: Mass Path Kilcoole Total Bat Passes

Daily Bat Pass Counts

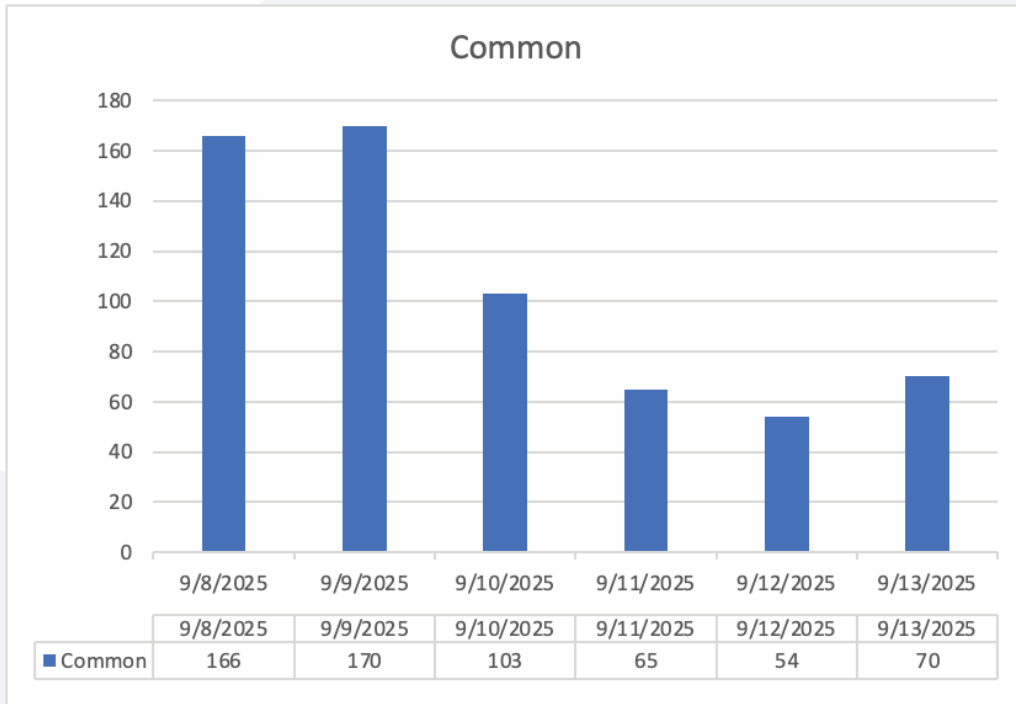


Figure 152: Common Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

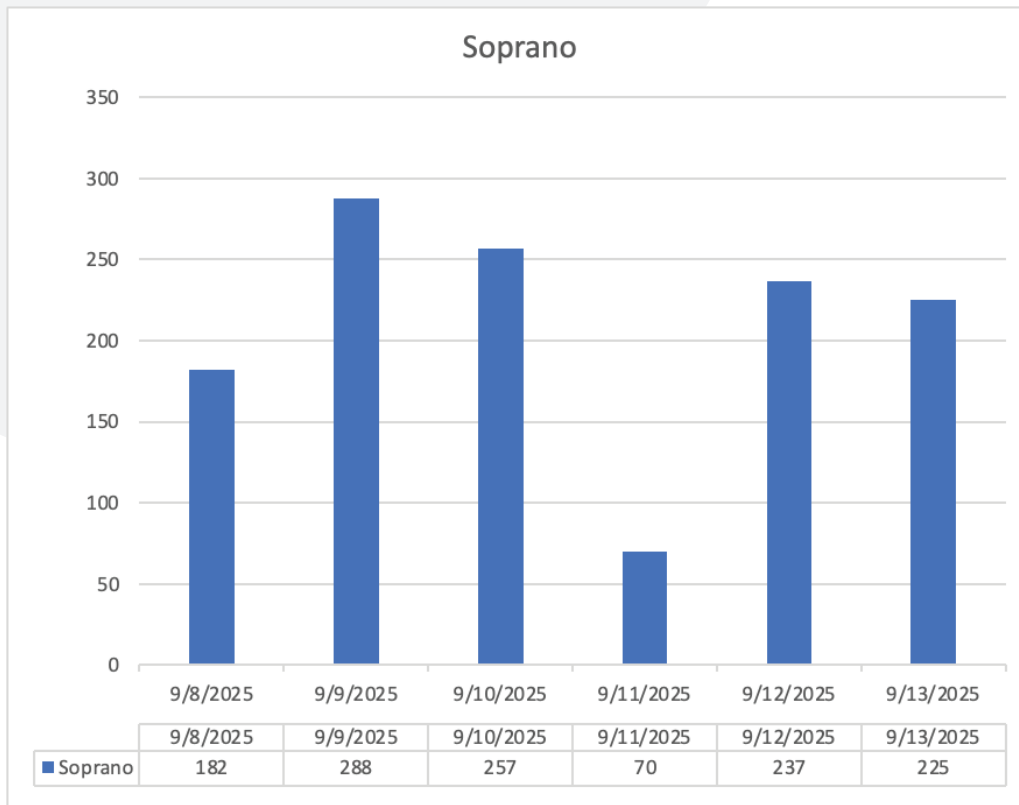


Figure 153: Soprano Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

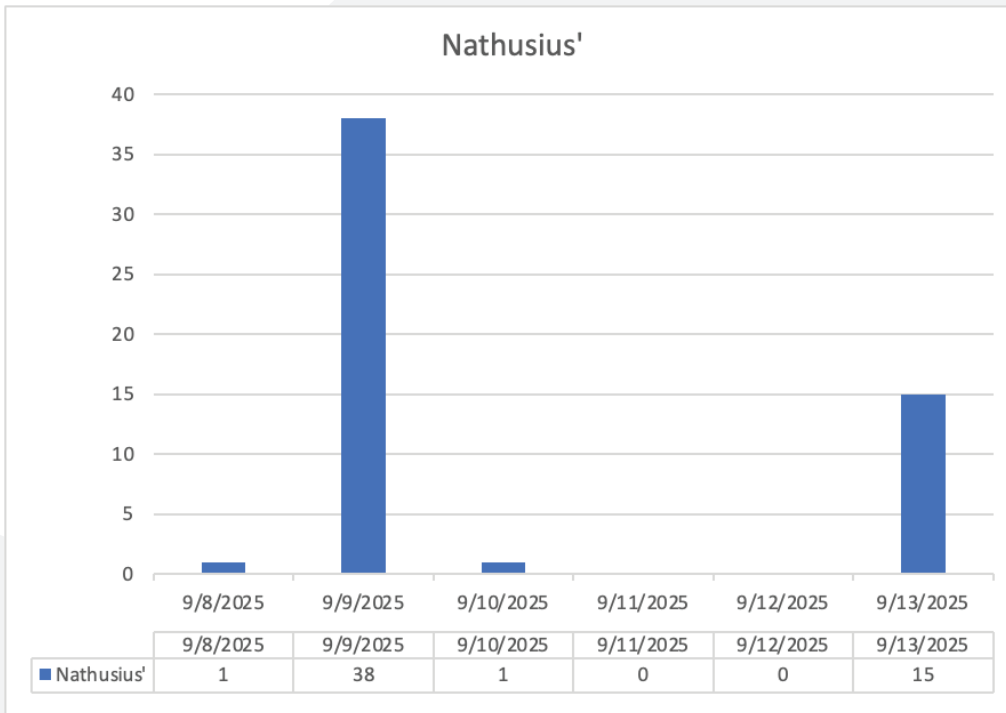


Figure 154: Nathusius' Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

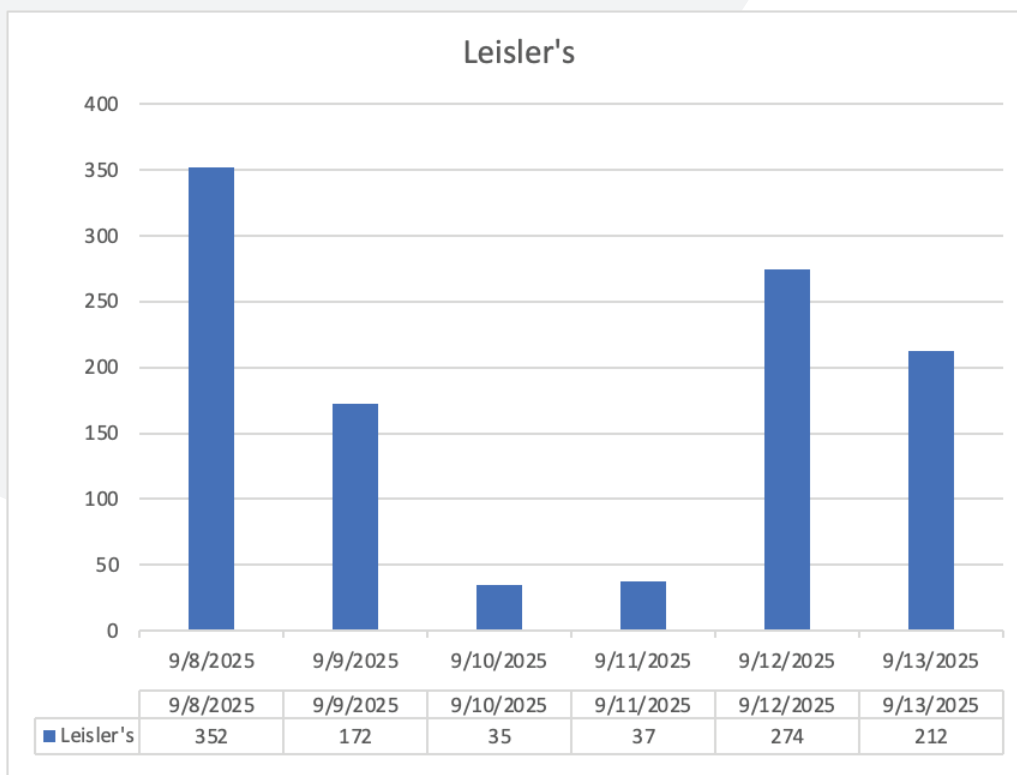


Figure 155: Leisler's Daily Bat Passes

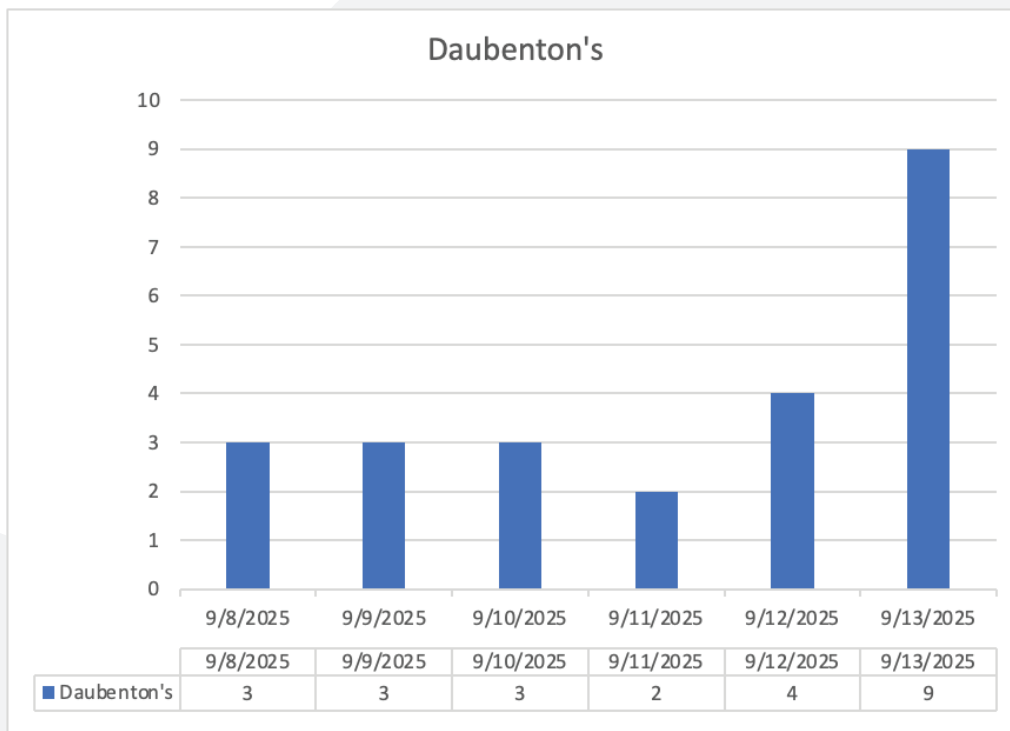


Figure 156: Daubenton's Daily Bat Passes

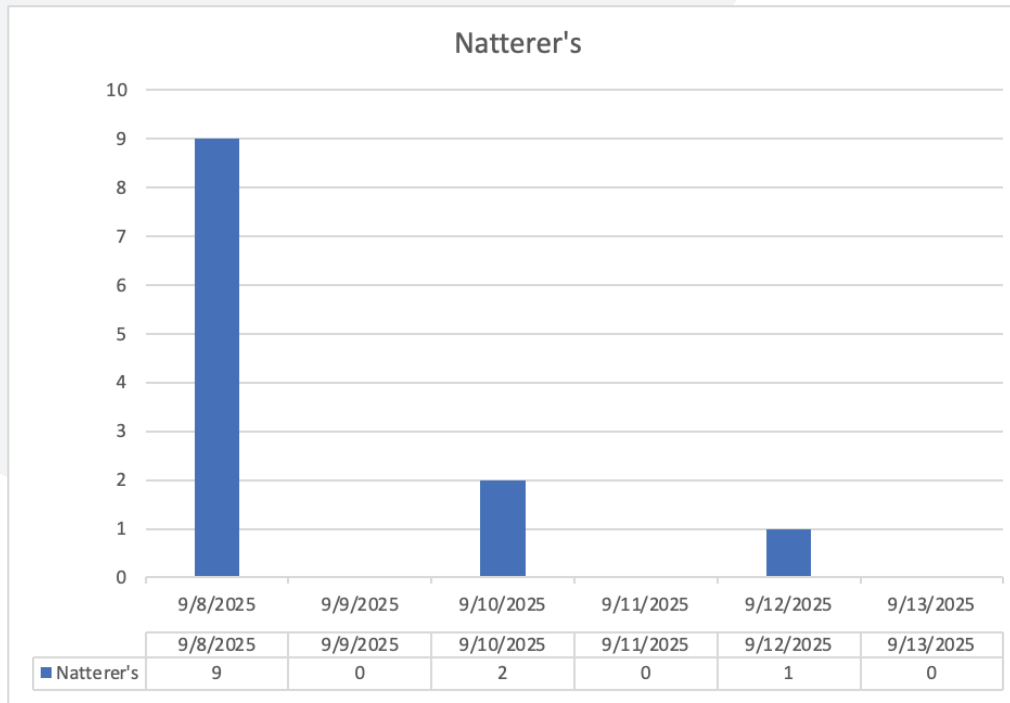


Figure 157: Natterer's Daily Bat Passes

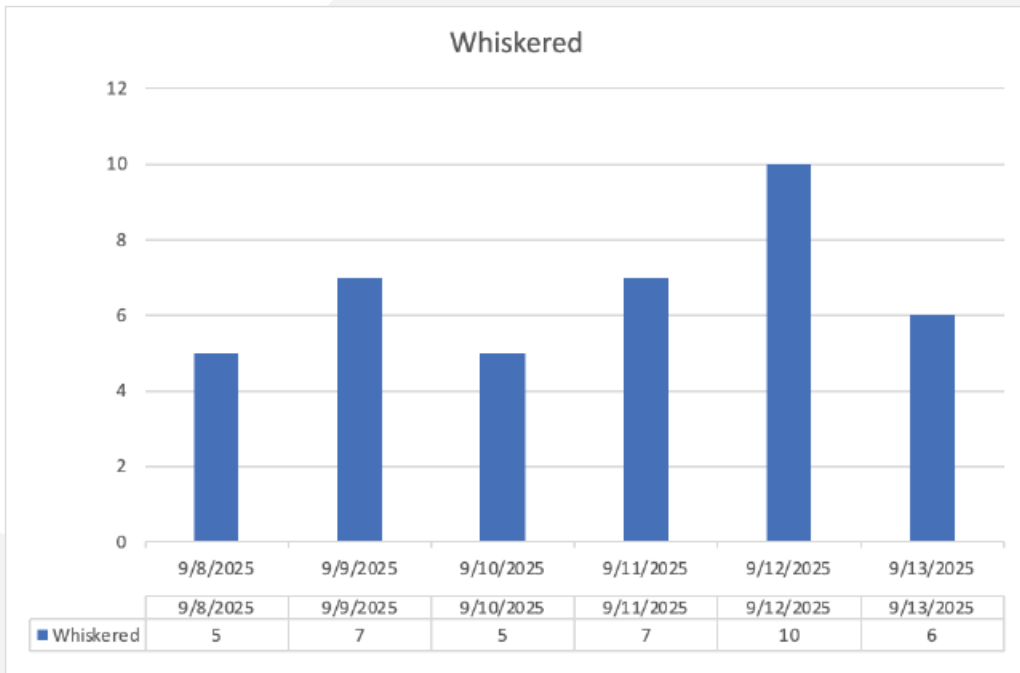


Figure 158: Whiskered Daily Bat Passes

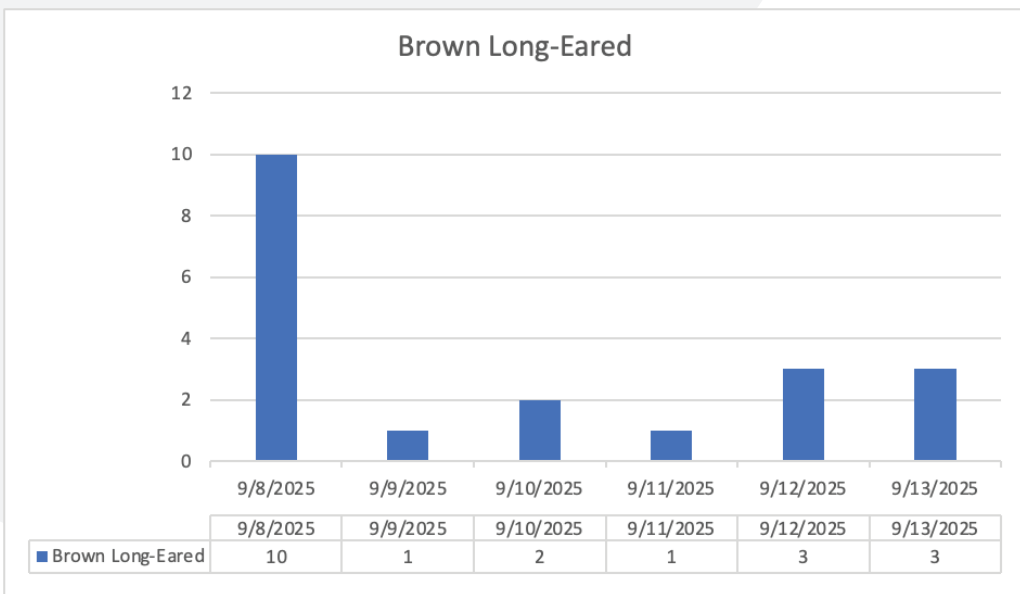


Figure 159: Brown Long-eared Daily Bat Passes

Hourly Bat Passes

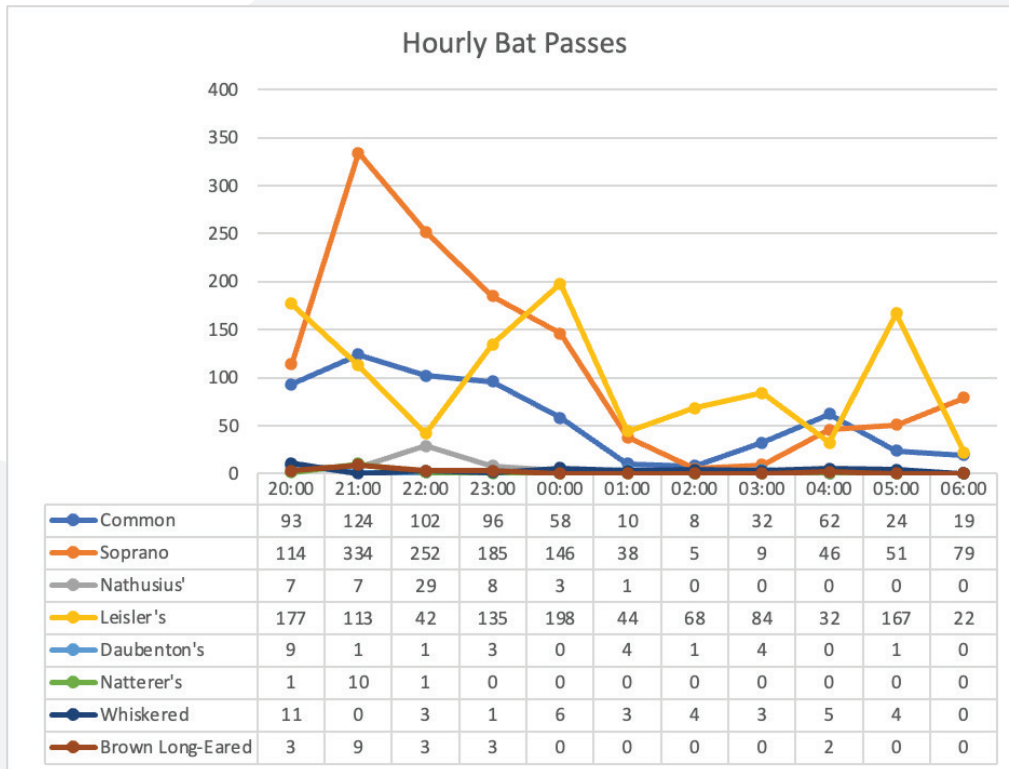


Figure 160: Hourly Bat Passes

Summary

The Song Meter Mini Bat was deployed at the Mass Path from 08/09/2025 to 13/09/2025. Weather conditions were initially mild with temperatures above average until the 11th when they dropped below the long-term average. There was some rain most days, particularly from the 10th - 12th (information from met.ie).

All eight of the eight possible bat species were identified here. The majority of bat passes were those of Soprano pipistrelles (1259) and Leisler's bats (1082), it is possible that there are Leisler's and Soprano pipistrelle roosts nearby. Common pipistrelles were also well represented with 628 passes. All Myotis species were identified, however, they only had a small number of passes.

SITE 2: EAST COAST NATURE RESERVE, MAIN HIDE

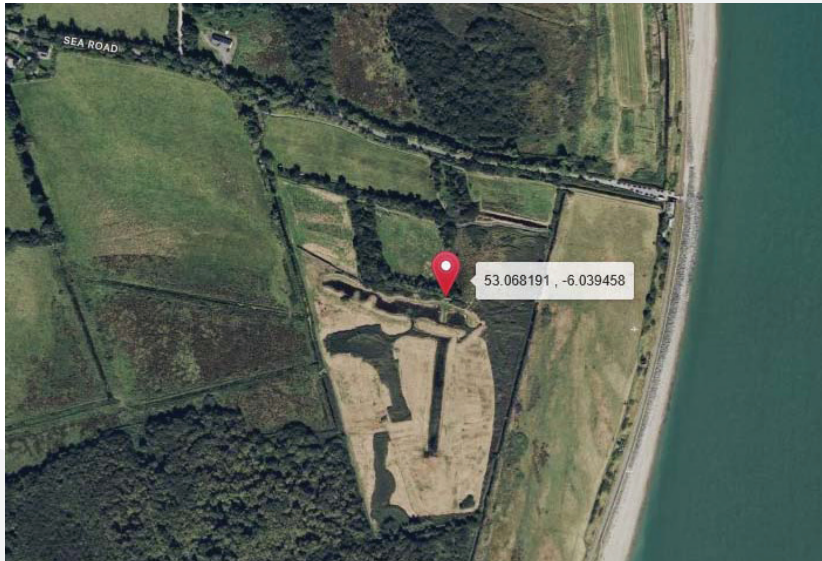


Figure 161: East Coast Nature Reserve – courtesy of irish.gridreferencefinder.com

This site is in Birdwatch Ireland's largest nature reserve. Habitats in the reserve include scrub, wetlands, wet grassland, birch woodland and watercourses. Newcastle Beach and the Irish Sea bound the site to the east and agricultural land is situated to the west.

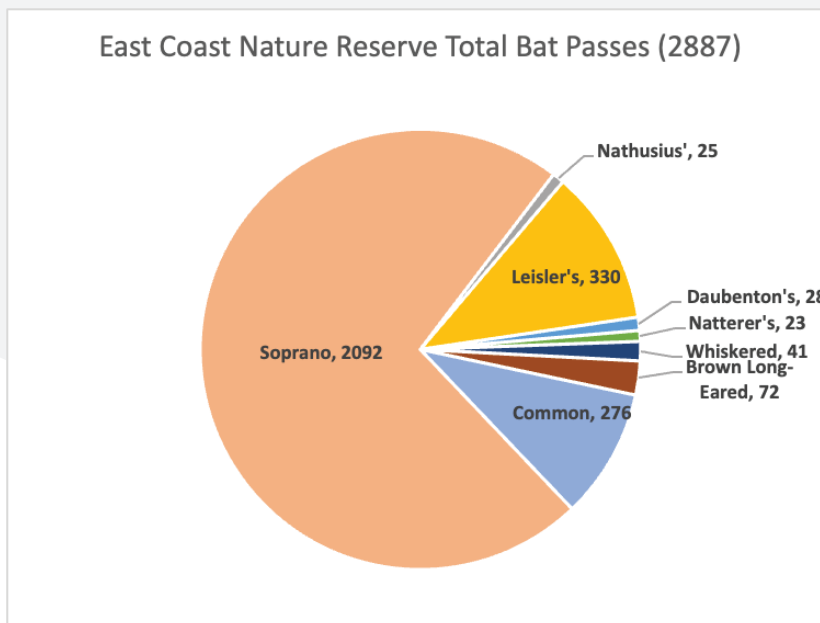


Figure 162: East Coast Nature Reserve Total Bat Passes

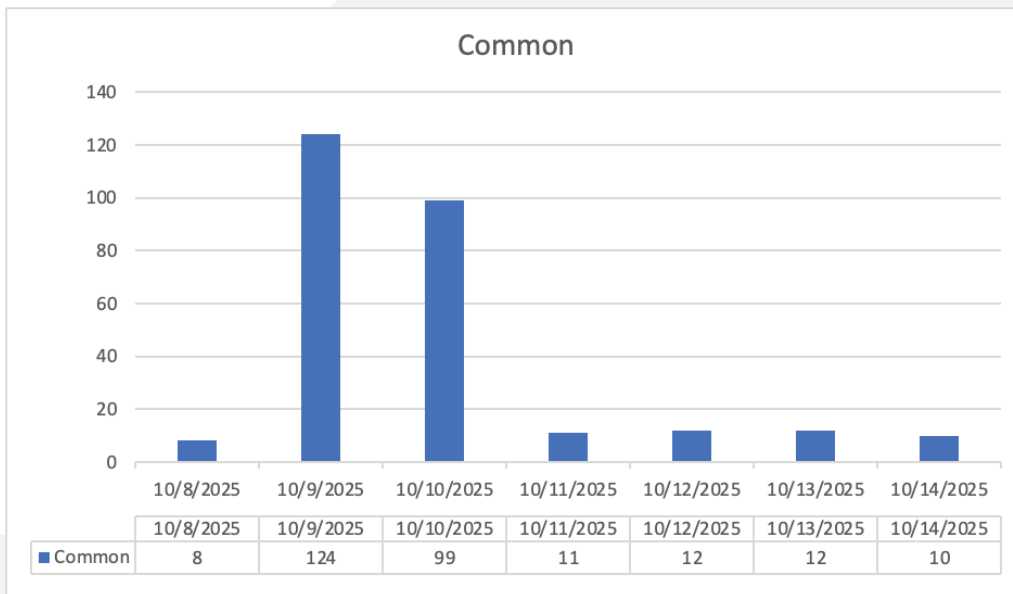


Figure 163: Common Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

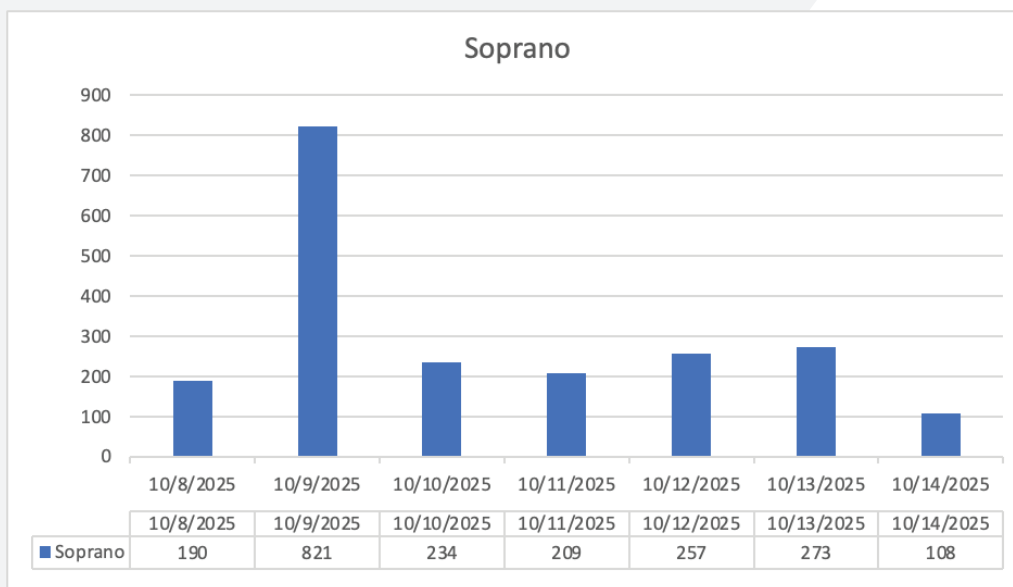


Figure 164: Soprano Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

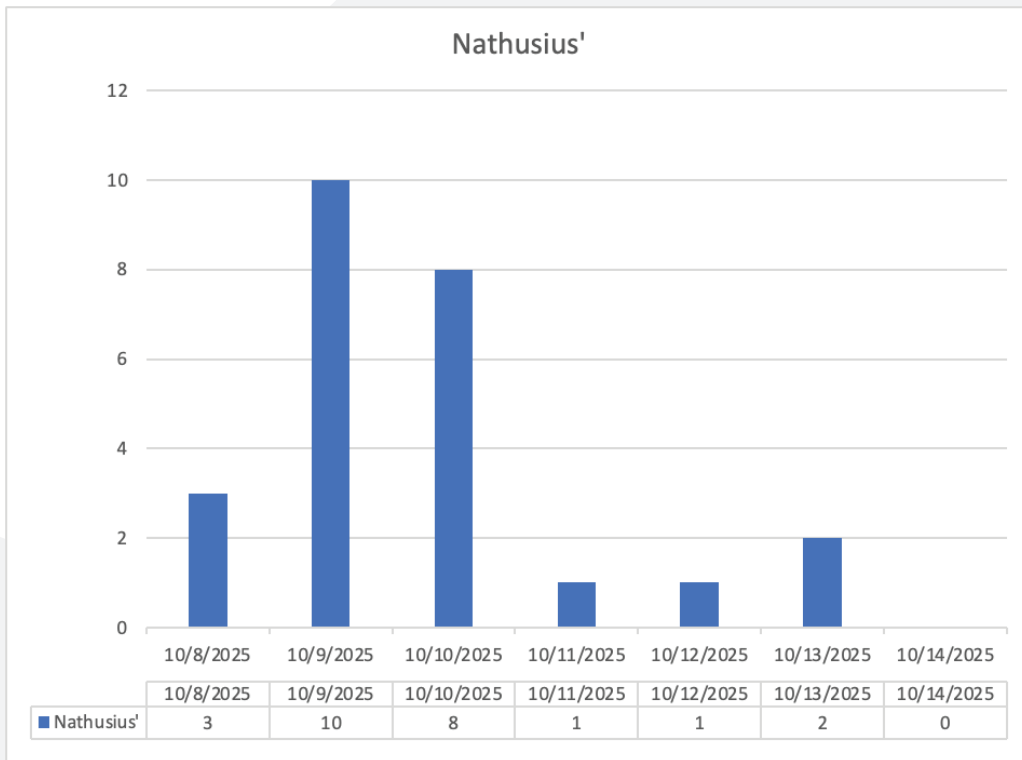


Figure 165: Nathusius' Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

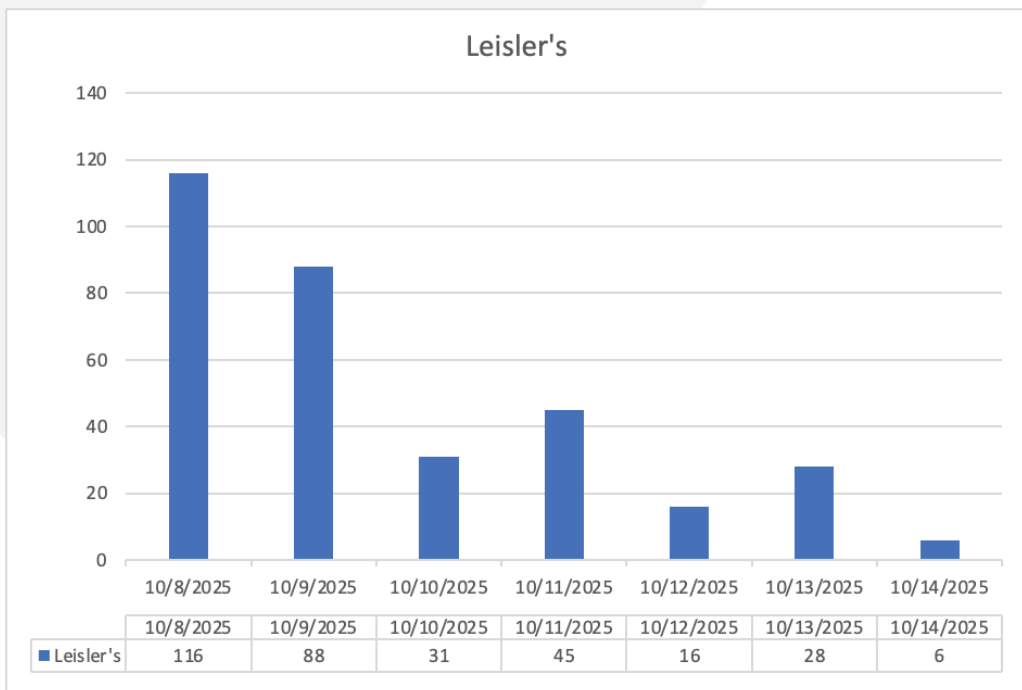


Figure 166: Leisler's Daily Bat Passes

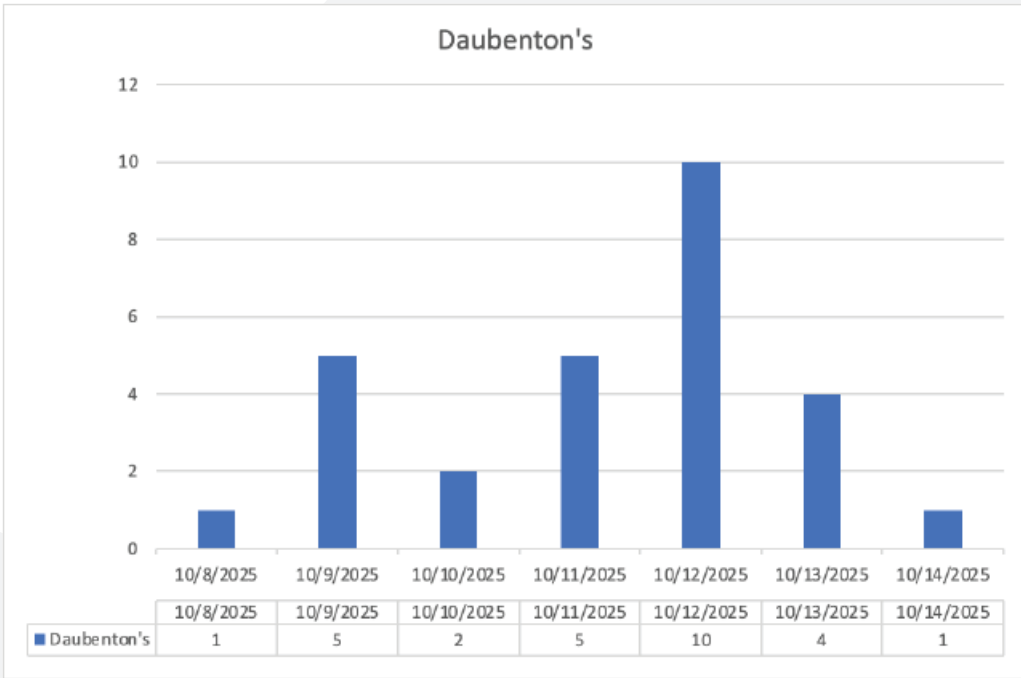


Figure 167: Daubenton's Daily Bat Passes

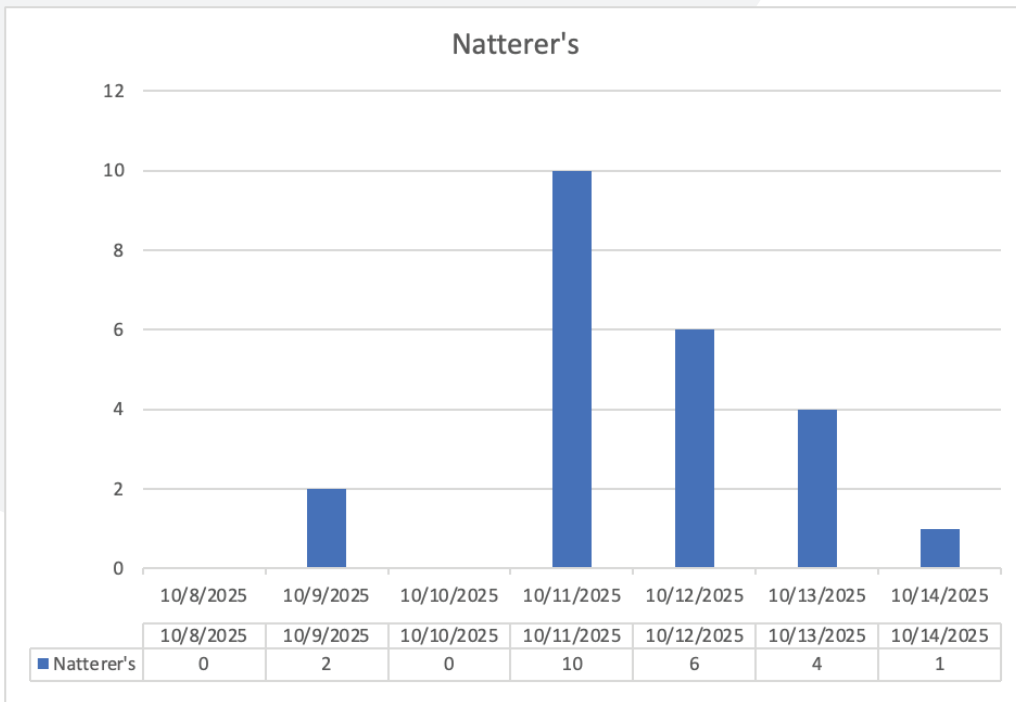


Figure 168: Natterer's Daily Bat Passes

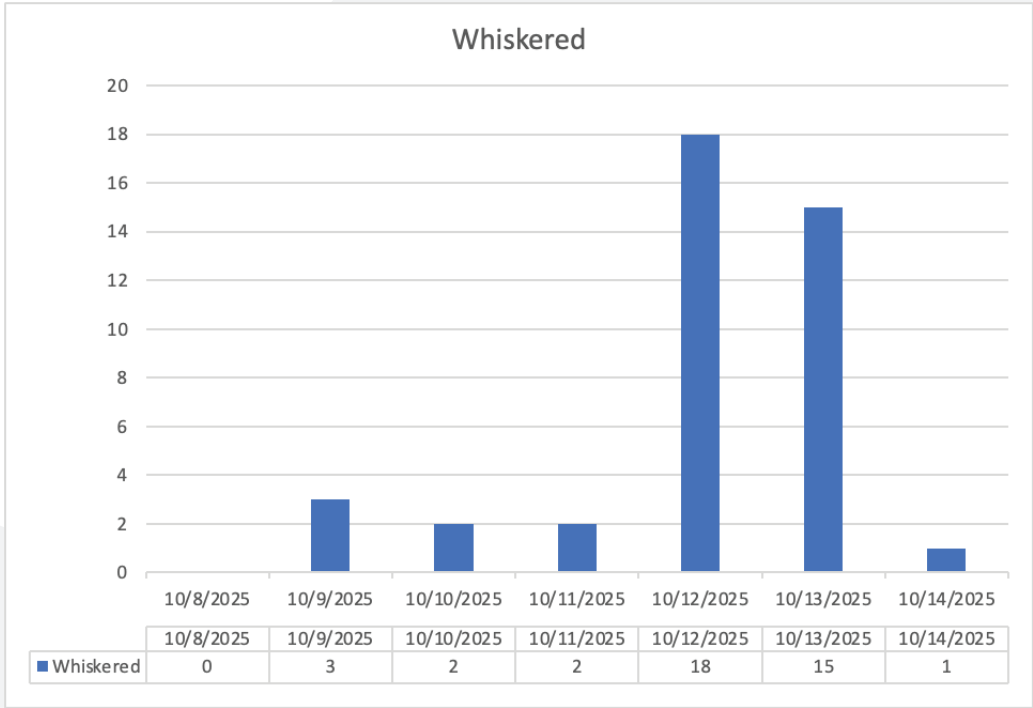


Figure 169: Whiskered Daily Bat Passes

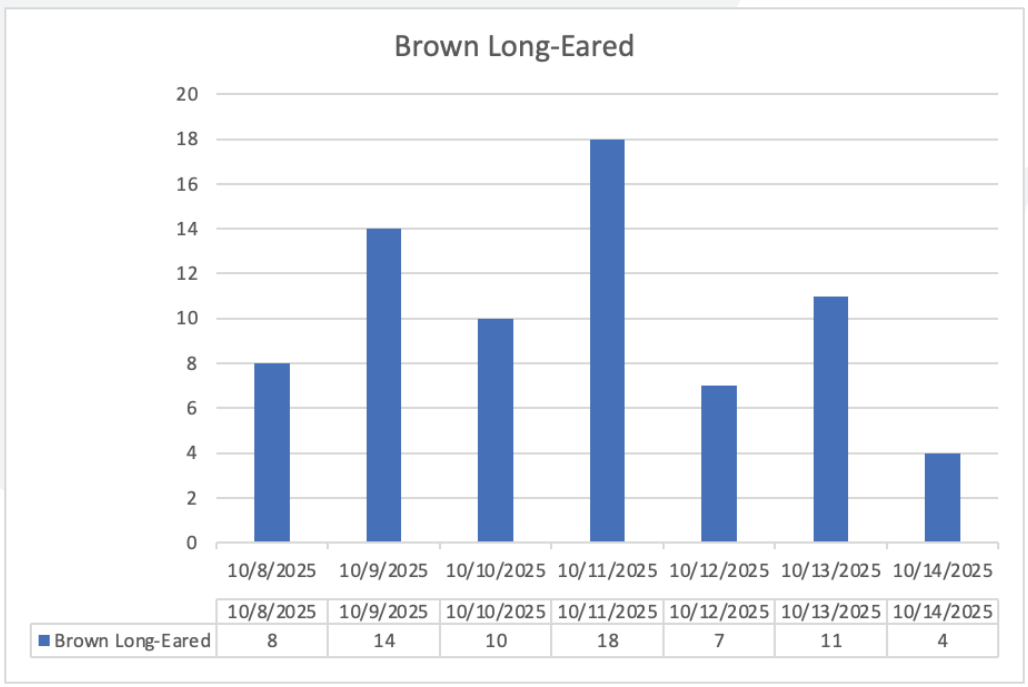


Figure 170: Brown Long-eared Daily Bat Passes

Hourly Bat Passes

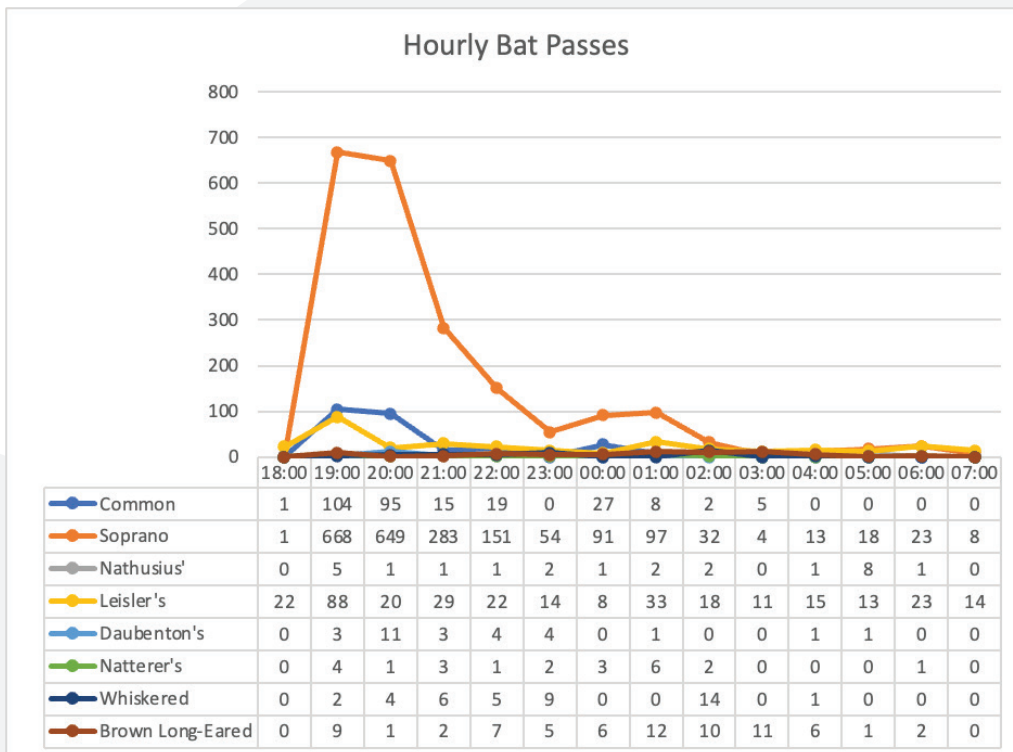


Figure 171: Hourly Bat Passes

Summary

The Song Meter Mini Bat was deployed at the East Coast Nature Reserve by Wicklow Bat Group from 08/10/2025 to 14/10/2025. Except for Oct 9th, weather conditions during the deployment were cool, with nighttime minimum temperatures dropping below average. The deployment period was largely dry with little rainfall recorded (information from met.ie).

There were 2887 bat passes recorded in total and all eight of the possible species at this location were present. The majority of bats identified were those of Soprano pipistrelles with 2092 passes. It is extremely likely that there is a Soprano roost nearby with the large number of passes recorded. There were 300 Leisler's bats, 276 Common Pipistrelles and 72 Brown Long-Eared bats identified with a very small representation of Myotis species and Nathusius' pipistrelles.

COUNTY WEXFORD (GOREY BAT GROUP)

SITE 1: PRIVATE GARDEN, CRAANFORD, GOREY

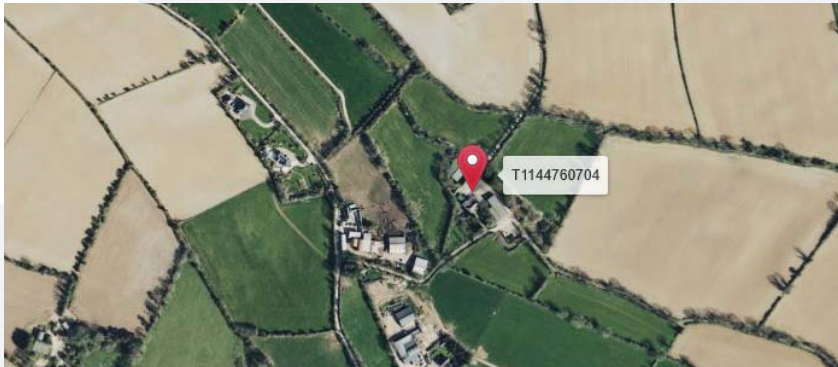


Figure 172: Location of private garden, Craanford Gorey - courtesy of irish.gridreferencefinder.com

This location is a private garden situated within a landscape of very intensive arable agriculture. There are hedgerows and tree lines lining the large fields along with a nearby wooded small river valley (Bann River), but overall, habitat for bats is very limited.

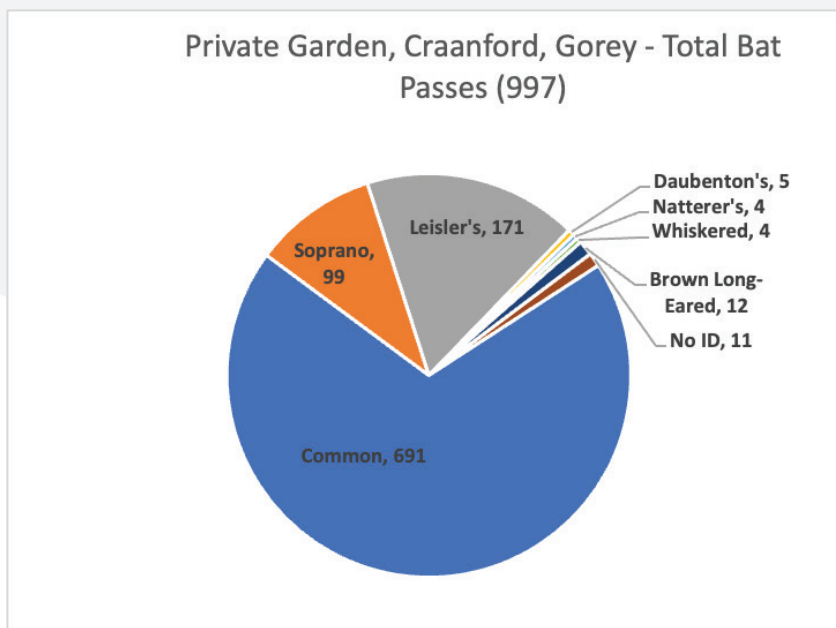


Figure 173: Private Garden Craanford Total Bat Passes

Daily Bat Pass Counts

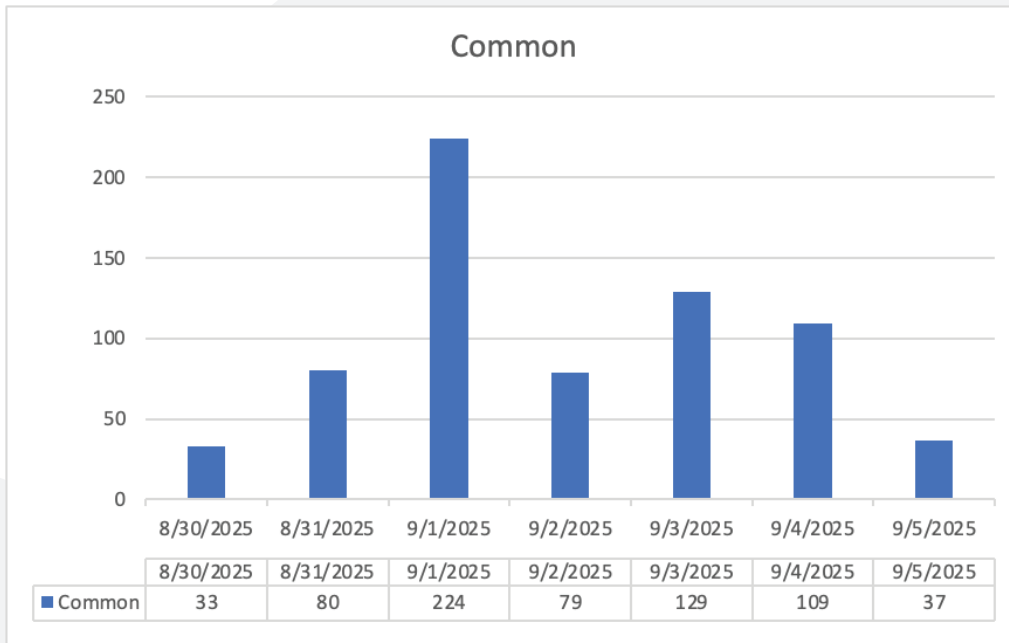


Figure 174: Common Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

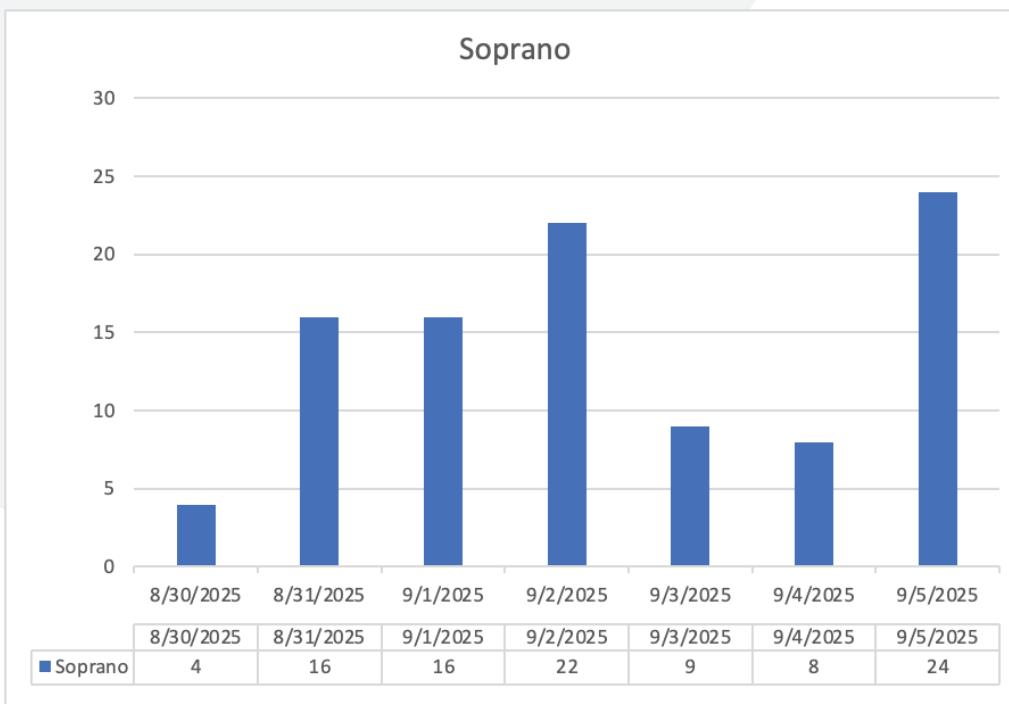


Figure 175: Soprano Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

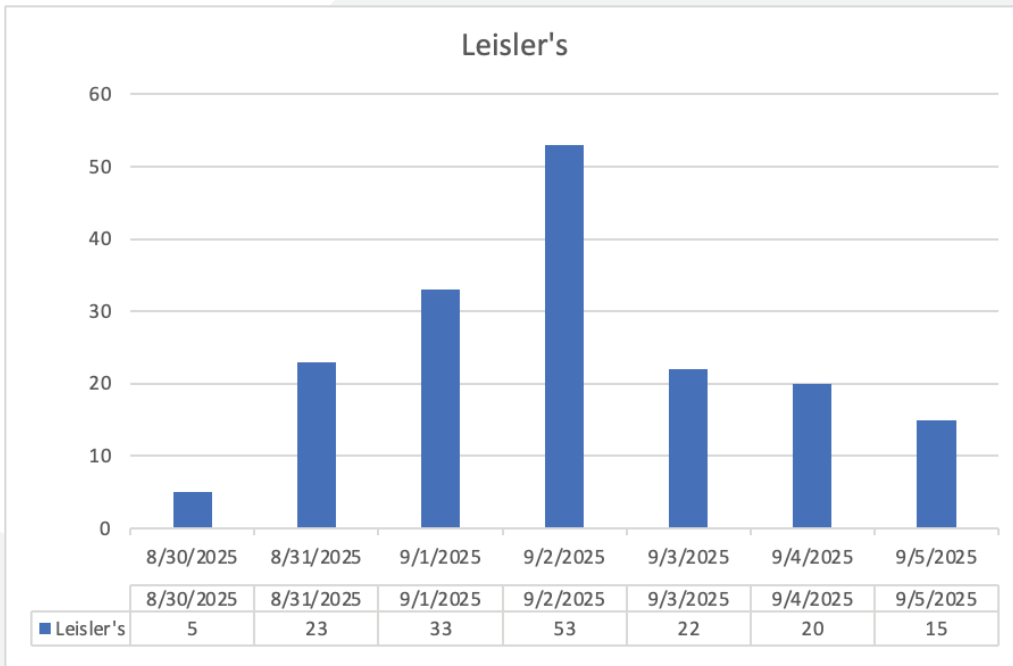


Figure 176: Leisler's Daily Bat Passes

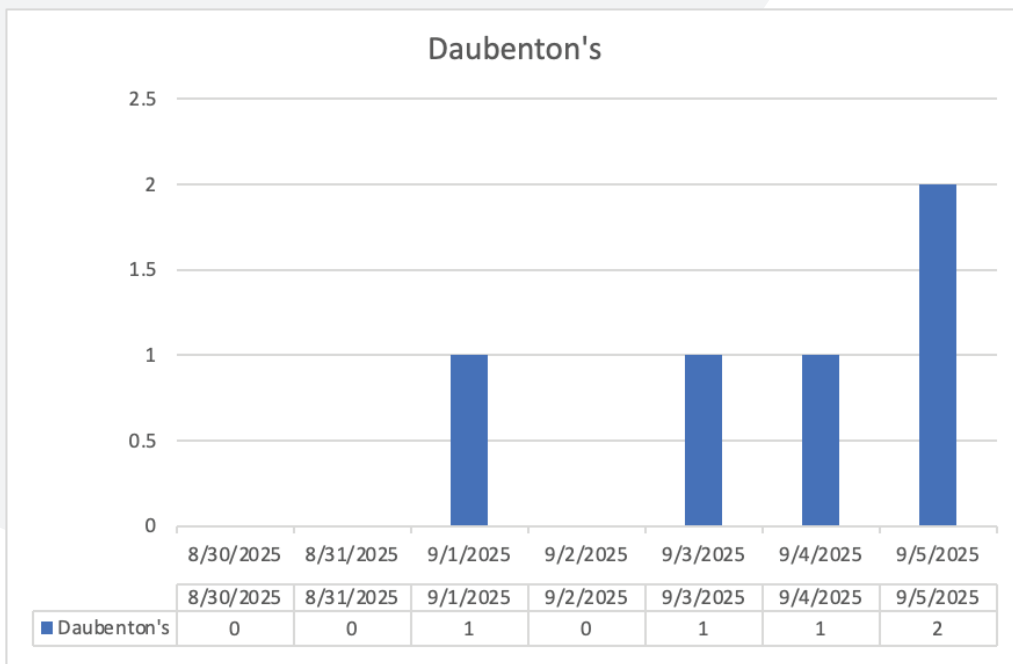


Figure 177: Daubenton's Daily Bat Passes

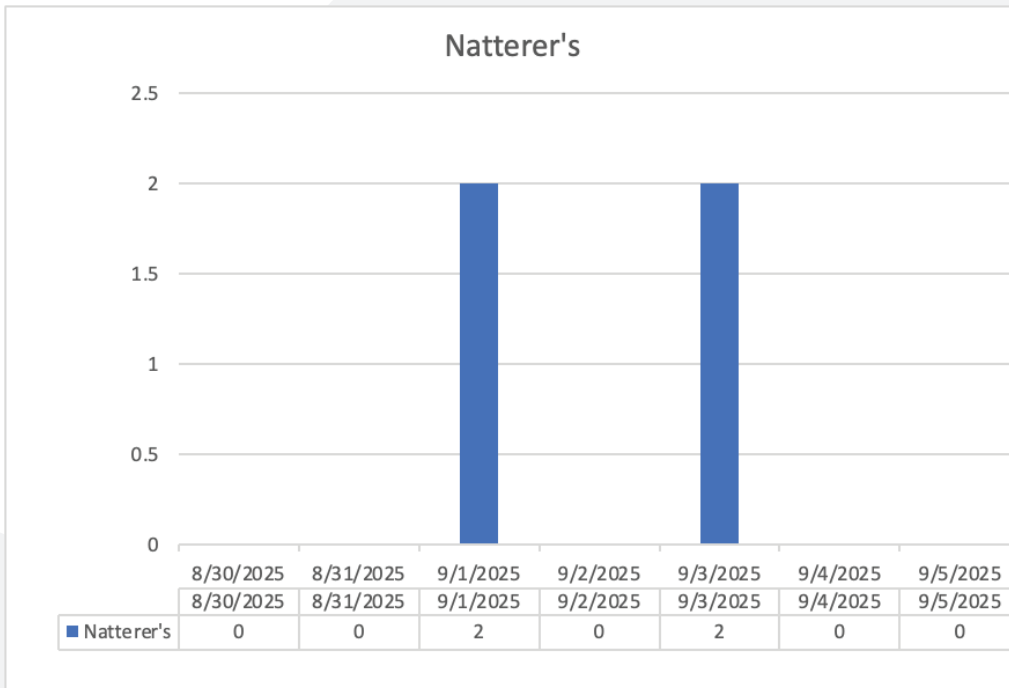


Figure 178: Natterer's Daily Bat Passes



Figure 179: Whiskered Daily Bat Passes

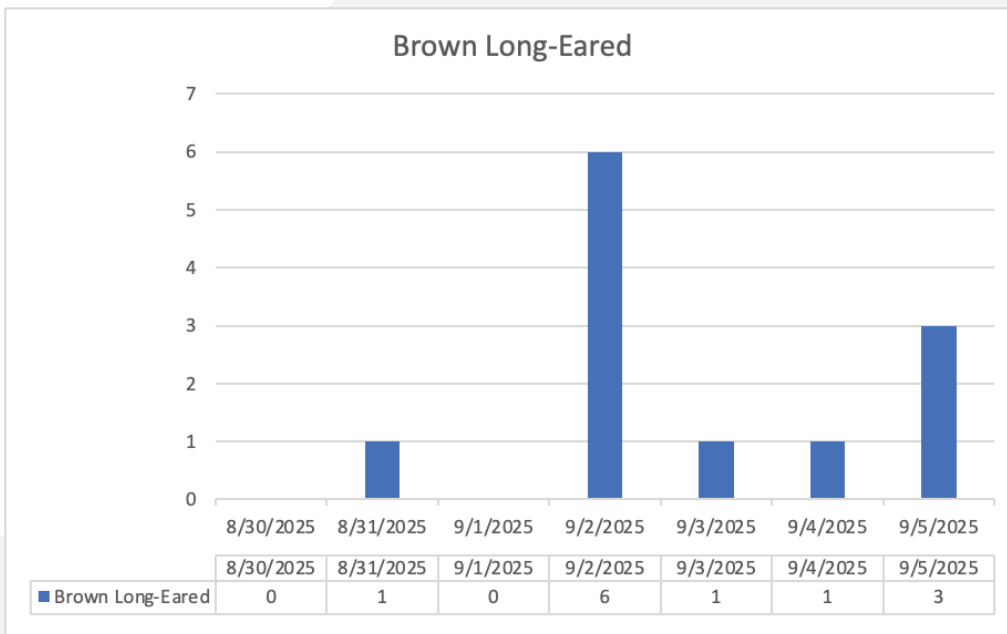


Figure 180: Brown Long-eared Daily Bat Passes

Hourly Bat Passes

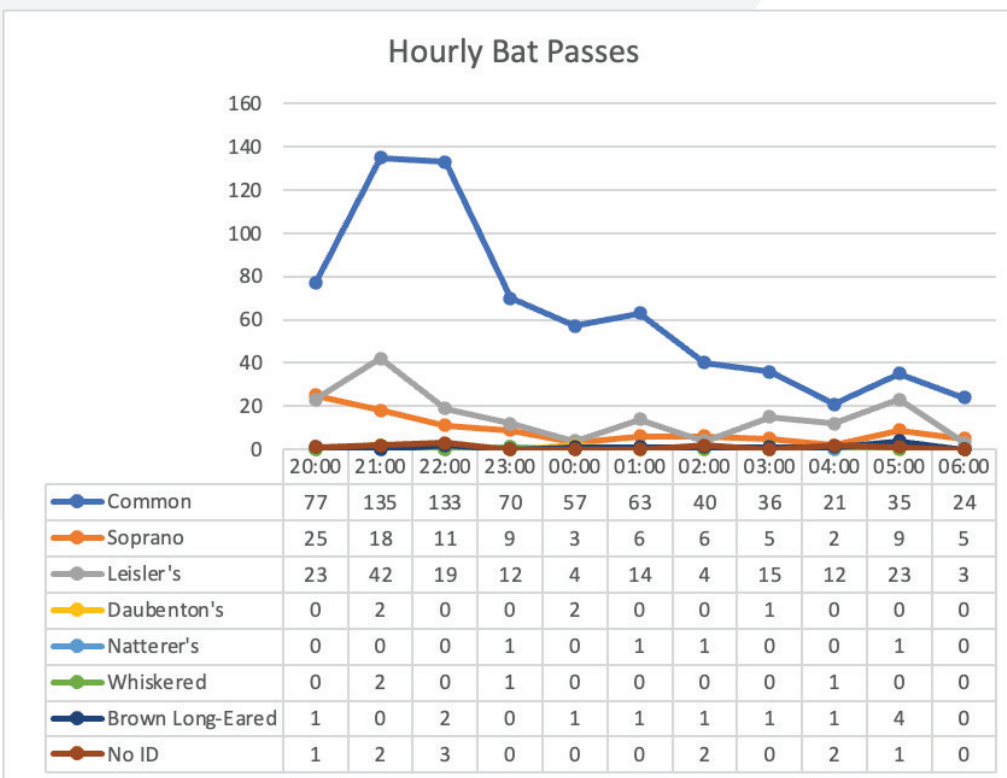


Figure 181: Hourly Bat Passes



Figure 182: Private garden courtesy of Graeme Blyth



Figure 183: Song meter deployed on a tree courtesy of Graeme Blyth

Summary

The song meter mini bat was secured to a tree in a private garden. Weather during deployment was wet most days particularly August 30th, 31st and September 3rd. Temperatures were mostly above average during the survey (information from met.ie).

The most abundant bats detected were Common Pipistrelles with 691 passes. There may be a Common Pipistrelle roost in close proximity to the detector location. The second most abundant species were Leisler's bats with 171 bat passes recorded. There were fleeting visits from all the Myotis species and 12 by Brown Long-Eared bats.

SITE 2: COURTTOWN

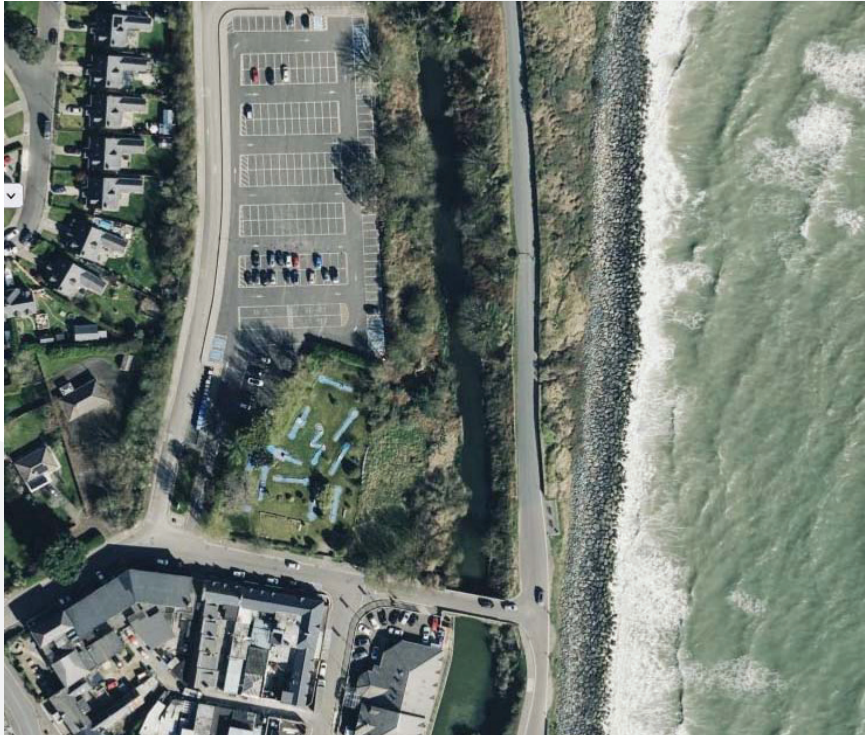


Figure 184: Courttown County Wexford courtesy of irish.gridreferencefinder.com

Courttown is a sprawling town along the Wexford coast. The detector was situated beside a public car park which is very close to the beach and shoreline. Courttown Woods – a broadleaved woodland – is situated to the north.

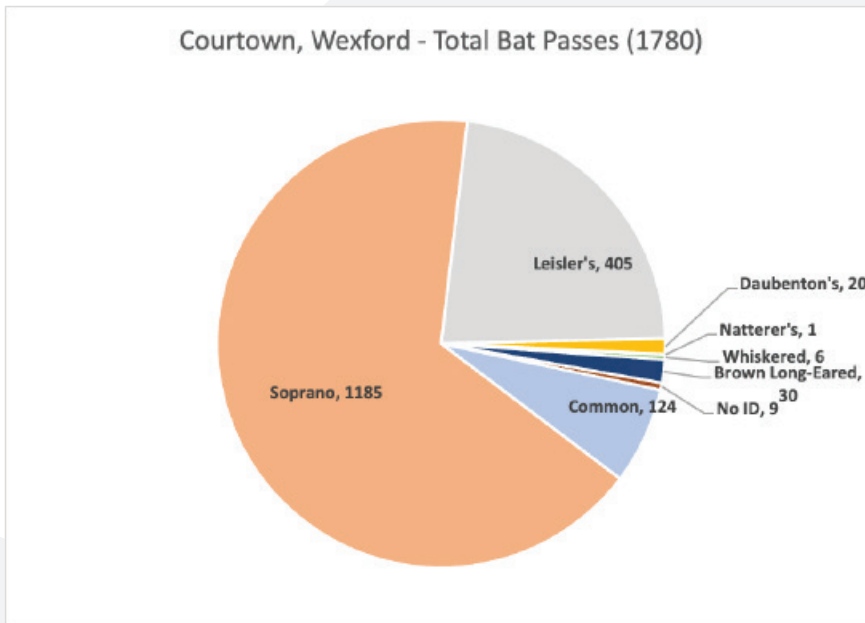


Figure 185: Courtown Total Bat Passes

Daily Bat Pass Counts

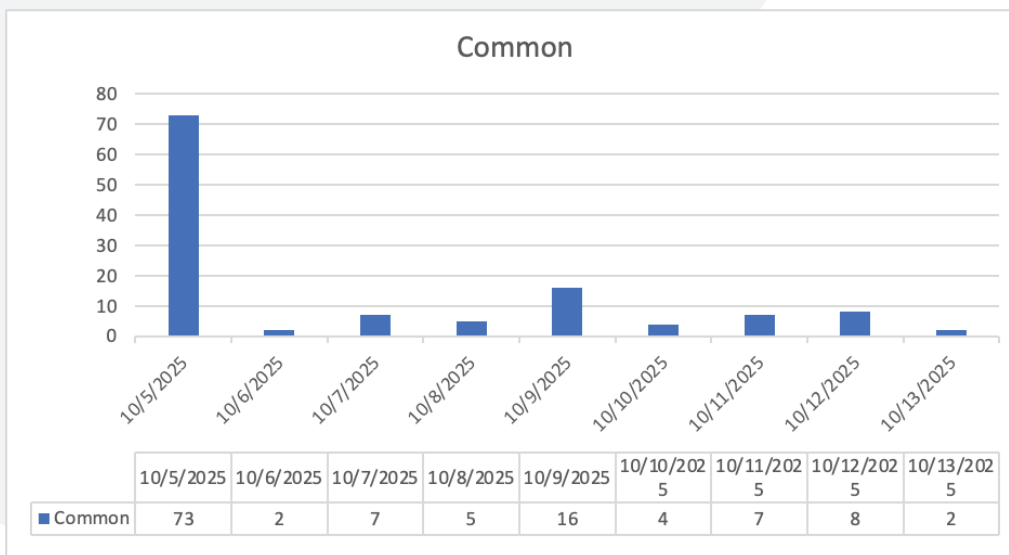


Figure 186: Common Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

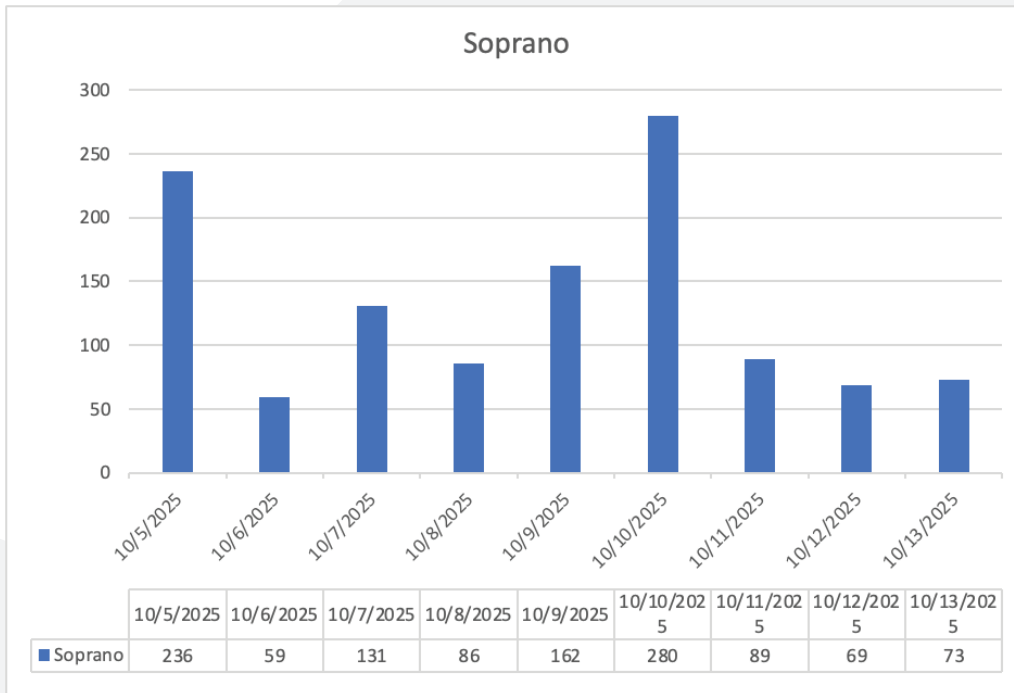


Figure 187: Soprano Pipistrelle Daily Bat Passes

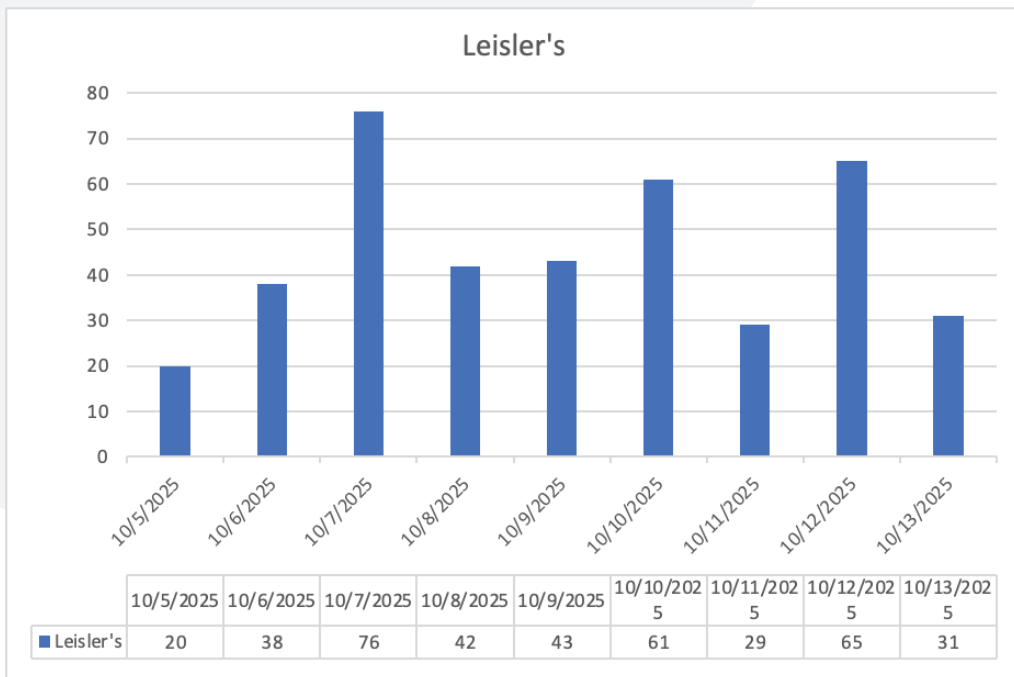


Figure 188: Leisler's Daily Bat Passes

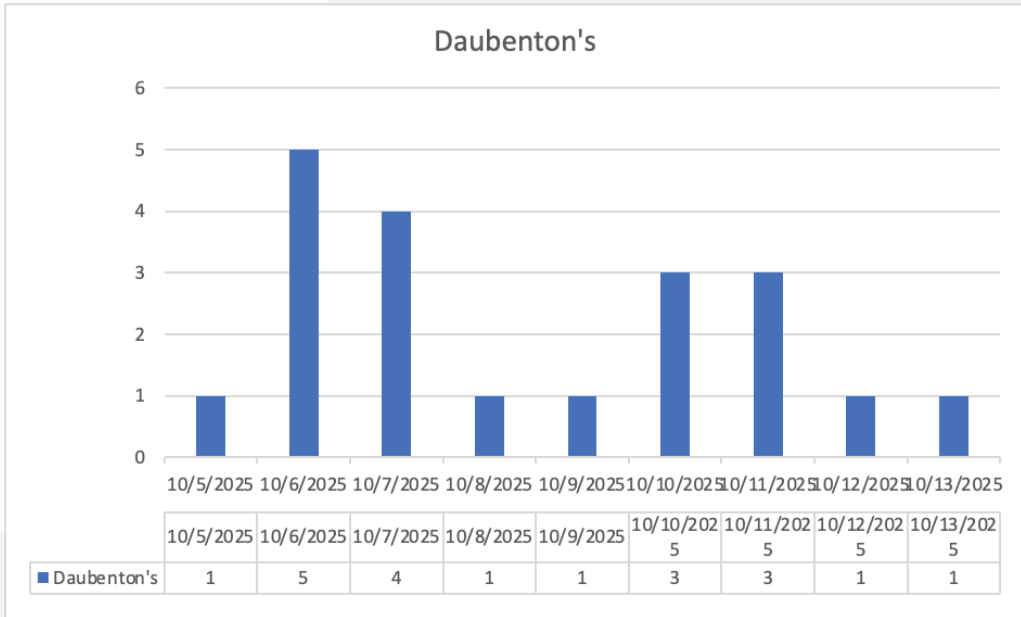


Figure 189: Daubenton's Daily Bat Passes

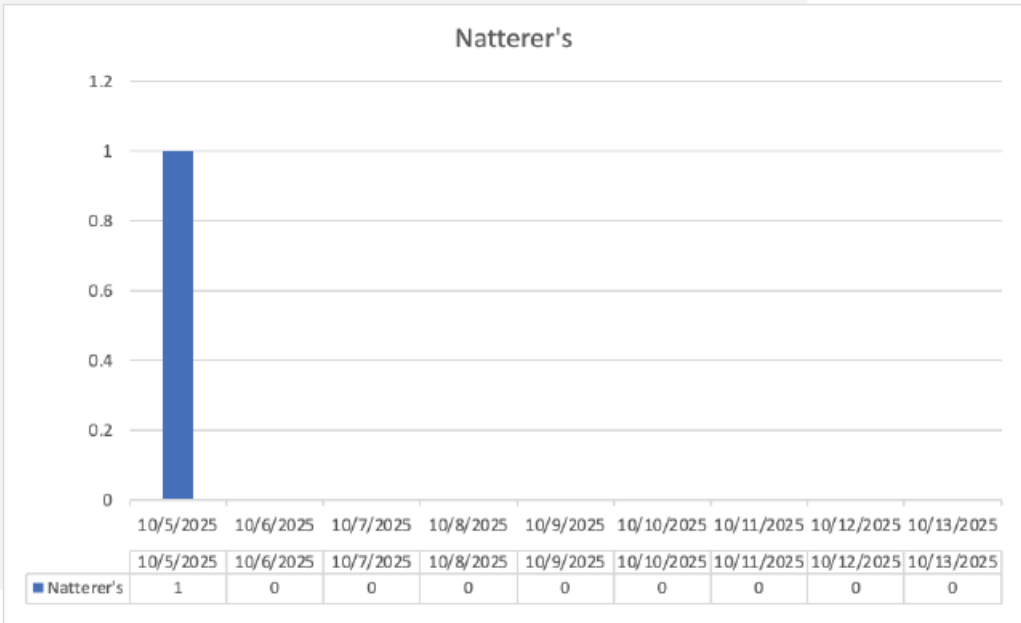


Figure 190: Natterer's Daily Bat Passes

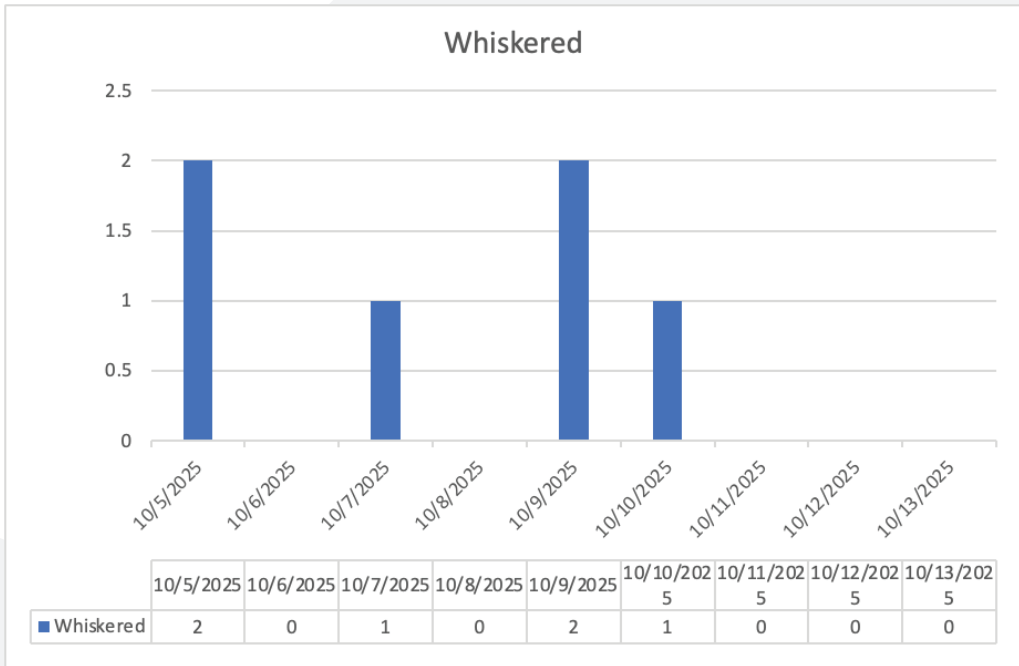


Figure 191: Whiskered Daily Bat Passes

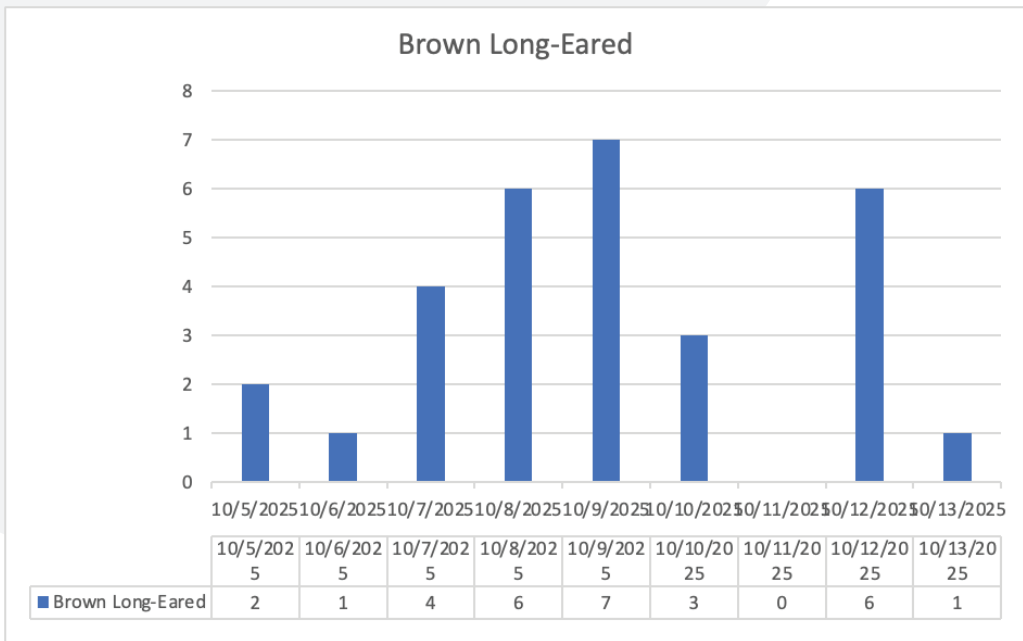


Figure 192: Brown Long-eared Daily Bat Passes

Hourly Bat Passes

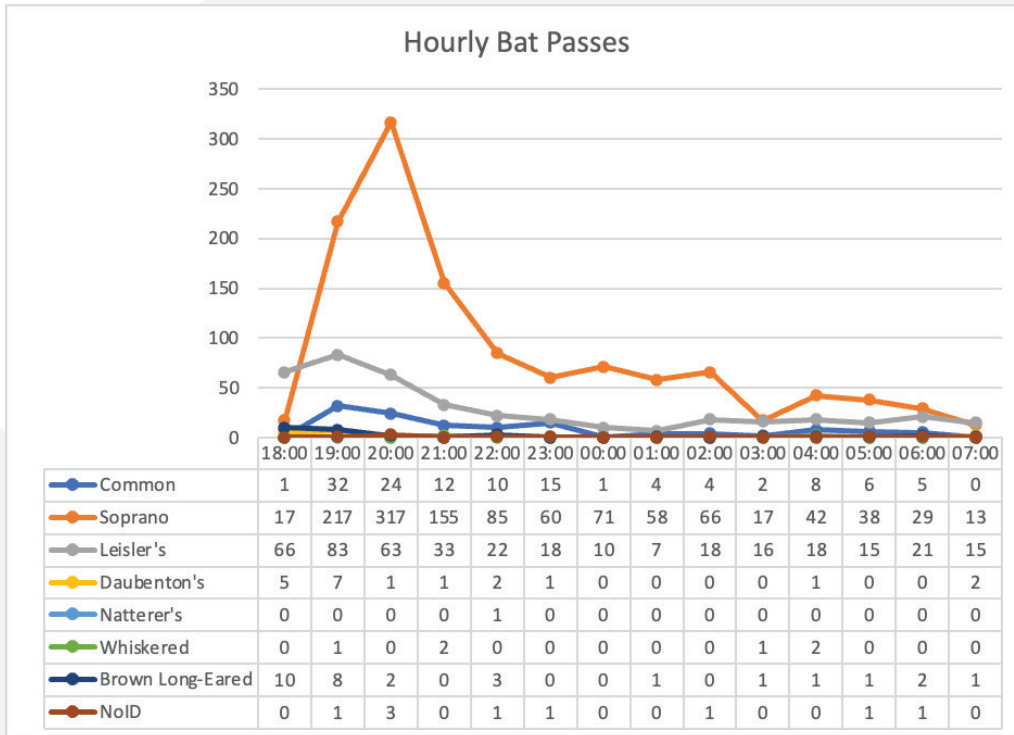


Figure 193: Hourly Bat Passes

Hourly Bat Passes



Figure 194 (a&b): Courtown Habitat and detector in situ – courtesy of Graeme Blyth

Summary

This coastal position was chosen by Gorey Bat Group for monitoring from October 5th to 13th 2025. Weather was mild from the 5th to the 8th but dropped to a little below average after that. There was little rainfall in Wexford during this deployment period. At the start of the survey, conditions were a little windy due to the tail end of Storm Amy, while more calm conditions were established from October 8th.

The most abundant bats were Soprano Pipistrelles at 1185 passes, which suggests that there is a roost nearby. The second most abundant species was Leisler's with 405 passes. There were only a few Myotis bats recorded with 27 passes between the three species of Myotis, 20 of those being Daubenton's bats. There were only 124 Common Pipistrelle Bats recorded and 30 Brown Long-eared. Nathusius' Pipistrelles were not detected at all. Seven out of a possible eight species were identified at this site.

CONCLUSION

The Song Meter Mini Bat detectors were set to record between sunset and sunrise each day, therefore, the dates given are on the evening of activation until the following morning, when bats had returned to their roosts.

There was a good mix of locations from towns, historic buildings and caves to coastal areas. Bat call recordings were at a premium with plenty of files on the returned SD cards even though they were deployed near the end of the season. Most sites showed a high number of bats present and there are opportunities for further work on many sites to investigate whether bat roosts are situated nearby.

Laytown Sea Front had an abundance of Leisler's bat activity, particularly during the latter half of the survey there which took place from September 23rd to 29th. Over 2000 Leisler's bat passes were recorded on the night of the 26th alone. While most of the bats in other locations were more active in the first four hours after sunset, Leisler's bats at Laytown were equally active from sunset right through to sunrise. It is possible that this is an area of Leisler's bat migration. Coincidentally, the peak in activity there occurred when the wind direction changed from southwest to west-north-westerly. Further studies at this location are warranted.

At Kesh Cave in Sligo the only bat species detected was Natterer's bat. While large numbers were not picked up (131 passes in total), the peak in activity here occurred a couple of hours after sunset which tallies with the possibility that these are autumn swarming bats. In contrast, detectors deployed at other caves, such as White Fathers and the Cavan Burren recorded little or no bat activity. At Kesh Cave there is a network of large chambers and it may take some further investigation to determine where the bats spend most of their time if or when swarming in the site.

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BAT CONSERVATION
IRELAND

Bat Conservation Ireland

Registered Address:

Carmichael Centre,
4-7 North Brunswick Street,
Dublin 7

E-mail: admin@batconservationireland.org

Website: www.batconservationireland.org

Registered Number: 494343

Charity Number: 13016

Charity Registration Number: 20039417