

The brown long-eared bat

Bat of the year 2017 in Romania

With the most obvious ears
of Romanian wildlife!

About the species:

The brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*) is a member in the long-eared bat genus, characterized primarily by its oversized ears, measuring almost as long as its body.

For hibernation (November 1 - March 31) it predominantly uses caves, where we can even find the species in sections with very low temperatures. Its large ears are folded under the wing during resting. In Summer (15 May - 15 August), the species uses hollow trees and/or buildings to form nursery colonies.

The brown long-eared bat prefers to hunt in mature deciduous forests. With a slow, precise flight close to, or inside the canopy, the species picks up insects directly from the tree's leaves. Its ultrasounds are very weak, similar to that of a whisper.

Protecting the species:

The protection of old-growth deciduous forests is essential for the brown long-eared bat, providing both roosts (hollow trees) and feeding habitats during the summer. In winter we should avoid tourism in caves that are used by the species to hibernate.

Also, it is necessary to properly manage the buildings used by nursery colonies and apply only non-toxic wood treatments to the wood structure, for example hot air or CO₂.



About the competition:


The first public "Bat of the Year" competition in Romania took place in January - March 2017. With the help of the Romanian bat research community, the Lilieci.ro portal offered three finalists to the public. The brown long-eared bat was chosen as winner, with 150 out of 412 votes (36.4%). We thank everyone for their participation!

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