



## BATS IN GARDENS



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# Gardens in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland the most valuable for bats

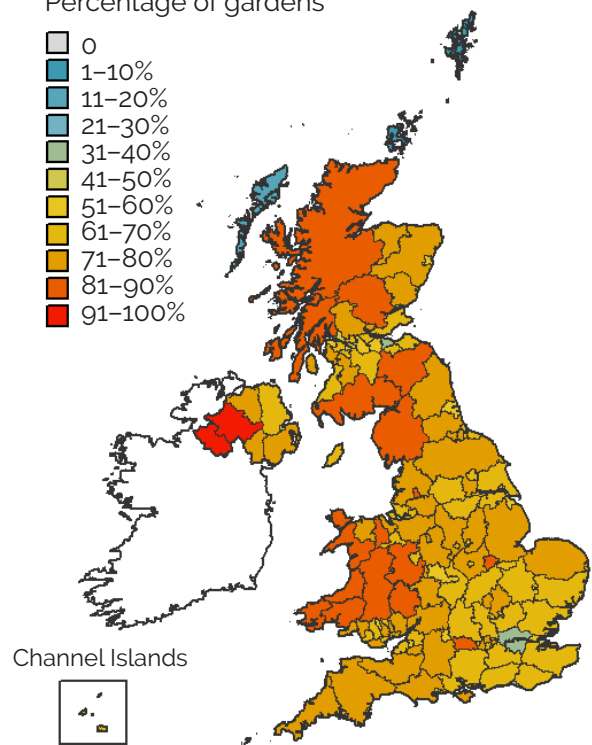
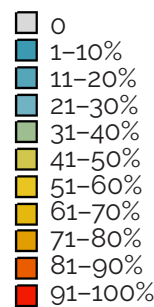
Many bat species have suffered declines, and our homes and gardens can provide valuable roosting and feeding opportunities.

The overview offered by Gardenwatch has given us new information about which gardens are used most by bats in the springtime, with over 80% of gardens across much of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland providing attractive habitats, compared to other parts of the UK.

The percentage of London gardens recording bats was comparatively low, though bats do occur across the capital, perhaps indicating a lower use of gardens.

While the Gardenwatch survey asked whether bats had been seen, without asking people to specify the species, the most common and widespread species are Daubenton's Bat (around water), Noctule, Common and Soprano Pipistrelle, and Brown Long-eared Bat. Of these, the Noctule is not widely found in Scotland, and the Common Pipistrelle is most often recorded in urban areas.

### Bats in gardens Percentage of gardens



Channel Islands



For other maps visit [www.bto.org/gardenwatch-results](http://www.bto.org/gardenwatch-results)

Maps by Kate Plummer, BTO

***“Bats were reported in 65% of the 33,566 gardens that participated in the Mammal Detective Mission.”***

Gardenwatch was the UK's biggest ever garden wildlife audit, running during Springwatch in May 2019. The complete set of maps can be found at: [www.bto.org/gardenwatch-results](http://www.bto.org/gardenwatch-results)



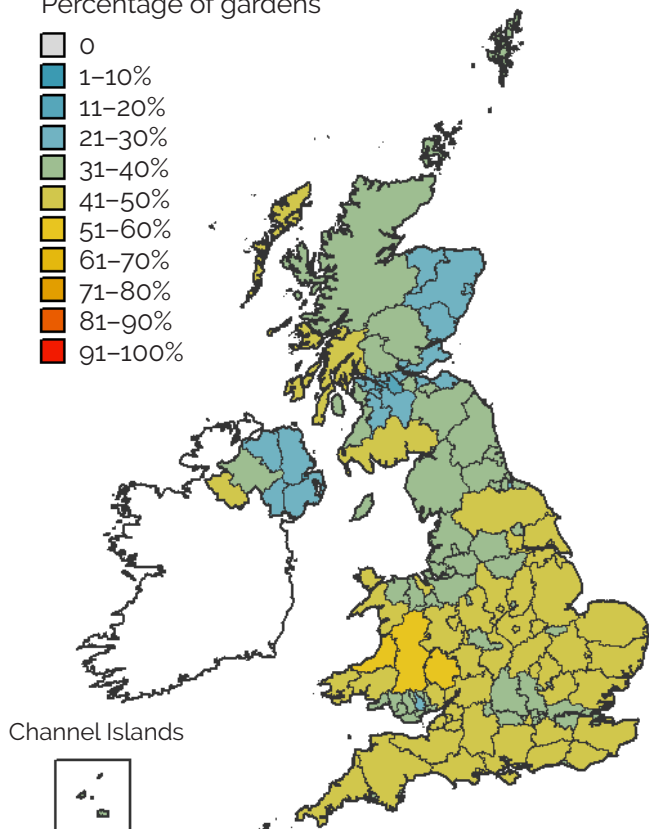
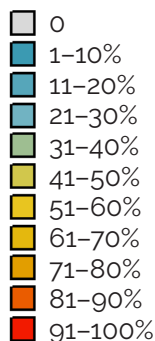
# What you can do to help

Bats feed on flying insects, such as midges and small flies, many of which have larvae that live in water. Building a wildlife pond, or a wet area such as a bog garden, will encourage flying insects.

Wildlife ponds should have sloping sides and shallow areas, plenty of emergent vegetation around the edges and should not contain fish, since the fish will eat any fly larvae in the pond. Bats will also drink from ponds.

## Ponds in gardens

Percentage of gardens



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Bats also feed on moths, which are attracted to flowering plants. Plants that attract moths as pollinators are often pale-coloured and release their scent at night, and include Jasmine tobacco, Night-scented Jasmine, Honeysuckle, Evening Primrose and Night-scented Stock.

A wide range of flowering plants, including those flowering early and late in the season, will ensure a garden rich in pollinating insects, in turn providing food for bats.

For more information on how to help the wildlife in your garden, please visit: [bit.ly/bto-wildlife-gardening](http://bit.ly/bto-wildlife-gardening)

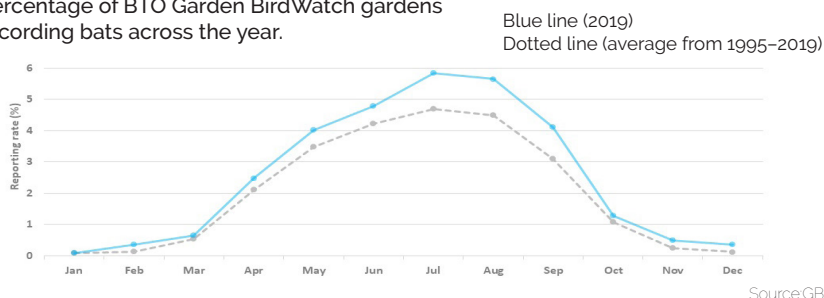
## Help monitor bats

RECORD THE WILDLIFE IN YOUR GARDEN  
FOR BTO GARDEN BIRDWATCH [www.bto.org/gbw](http://www.bto.org/gbw)



You can record the wildlife visiting your garden through the BTO's Garden BirdWatch. Keeping simple lists of the birds and other animals that visit your garden over a week will help with national research into the importance of gardens for wildlife.

Percentage of BTO Garden BirdWatch gardens recording bats across the year.



Source:GBW

Find out more about Gardenwatch and what we discovered: [www.bto.org/gardenwatch-results](http://www.bto.org/gardenwatch-results)