

Photo: G. Bradley



Baby Brown Long-eared bat

Photo: Roger Jones



Roosting Brown Long-eared bats

Photo: Helen Adsett



Grounded bat recovering in a box

Baby Bats

Baby bats (pups) are usually born in June. They're tiny - about the size of a 50p piece, but when you compare the size of the pup to the mother you understand why the poor mothers only usually have one baby each year. It's like a human mother giving birth to a full grown five year old child! On rare occasions they give birth to twins!

June is also the time of year when the majority of grounded bats are found. Many of them are baby bats. Frequently the bats are just exhausted and simply need time to recover. Often in the case of baby bats they've just fallen out of the roost, or been accidentally dropped by their mothers. The babies hang onto the mothers chest while she is flying, and they sometimes lose their grip.

If you discover a bat on the ground, contact the Bat Helpline immediately on 0845 1300 228. Maybe add that to your mobile phone now. The helpline provides free advice, and if necessary, can sometimes arrange a visit from a voluntary bat worker.

If you find a bat which is in immediate danger, and you need to move it, you should always wear gloves (or use a towel or clothing) to avoid being bitten or scratched. A tiny number of bats have been found to carry rabies.

More info at:

www.uksafari.com/bats.htm