

## BREEDING BAT COLONIES FOUND IN BAT BOXES IN EAST LITHUANIA 2010

KAZIMIERAS BARANAUSKAS<sup>1</sup>, NOMEDA VĖLAVIČIENĖ<sup>2</sup>, DEIVIDAS MAKAVIČIUS<sup>2</sup> and PETER LINA<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Vilnius Pedagogical University, Studentų 39, LT-08106 Vilnius, Lithuania, E-mail: [kazimierasbaranauskas@gmail.com](mailto:kazimierasbaranauskas@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup>Society for Bat Conservation in Lithuania, Renavas Palace, Mažeikiai district, LT-5500, Lithuania, E-mail: [nature@kli.lt](mailto:nature@kli.lt)

<sup>3</sup>National Museum of Natural History „Naturalis”, c/o P.O. 835, 2300 AV Leiden, the Netherlands, E-mail: [phc.lina@tiscali.nl](mailto:phc.lina@tiscali.nl)

For some bat species bat boxes are very useful for shelters throughout the warm season of the year. The purpose of the present study in East Lithuania was to assess the occupancy rate of bat boxes of three models by breeding bat colonies during the summer season. The bat box NET was prepared during 2004-2009. A total of 392 bat boxes (62 three-five chamber bat boxes, 258 standard bat boxes and 72 ‘flat’ bat boxes) were erected in 20 areas (60 groups of bat boxes, each consisting of 4 – 8 bat boxes).

Bat boxes were attached to trees (pine and oak trees) growing in open areas in forest clearings surrounded by mixed or pine forest. Boxes were checked for bats on 5–15 June in 2010. In the bat boxes were found females with youngsters of *Pipistrellus nathusii* (31 colonies), *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* (4 colonies) and *Plecotus auritus* (1 colony). 24 bat breeding colonies were found in three-five chamber bat boxes (occupancy rate of bat boxes: 38.7%) and 12 breeding colonies found in standard bat boxes (occupancy rate: 4.7%). No breeding bat colony was found in any ‘flat’ bat box.

In each three-five chamber bat box occupied by bats, there were about 60-200 adult bats, in standard bat boxes between two and approximately 50 adult bats. Non-breeding bats (single or small social groups) were found in three-five chamber bat boxes, standard bat boxes and ‘flat’ bat boxes. In total, in the bat boxes about 2000 adult bats of eight species were found – *Pipistrellus nathusii*, *P. pygmaeus*, *P. pipistrellus*, *Myotis dasycneme*, *Plecotus auritus*, *Nyctalus noctula*, *Eptesicus serotinus* and *Eptesicus nilssonii*.

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**Table 1. Number of bat breeding colonies in bat boxes and number of erected bat boxes (East Lithuania, 2010)**

Territories	Multi-chamber bat boxes	Standard bat boxes	„Flat“ bat boxes	Number of bat boxes	Number of localities.	Number of bat colonies	Number of bats
Aukštaitija NP	5	18	3	26	6	3	~ 200
Dzūkija NP	2	10	3	15	3	1	~ 50
Trakai HNP	6	30	3	39	1	5	~ 200
Sartai RP	2	6	3	11	2	3	~ 300
Gražutė RP	2	10	3	15	2	1	~ 30

Labanoras RP	5	18	6	29	1	-	-
Aukštadvaris RP	5	18	3	26	5	5	~ 300
Neris RP	6	18	3	27	3	4	~ 300
Verkiai RP	6	18	3	27	7	2	~ 300
Dieveniškiai RP	1	6	3	10	1	-	-
Nemuno Kilpų RP	6	20	6	32	8	4	~ 100
Veisiejai RP	4	10	6	20	2	5	~ 300
Forest Plonėnai	1	6	3	10	1	-	-
Forest Semeliškės	3	18	3	24	5	-	-
Forest Strošiūnai	3	18	3	24	3	-	-
Forest Vanagynė	1	8	3	12	2	-	-
Forest Grūžiai	1	6	3	10	2	1	9
Forest Maišiogala	1	6	3	10	1	1	10
Forest Rūdininkai	1	10	6	17	3	-	-
Forest Daugai	1	4	3	8	2	1	~ 100

**Table 2. Bat species and number of bat colonies found in bat boxes of three models (East Lithuania, 2010)**

Bat species	Multichamber bat boxes	Standard bat boxes	„Flat” bat boxes
<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	22	9	-
<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	2	2	-
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	-	1	-