



## **Bat Fauna of Turkey and Northern Cyprus: Species Diversity, Anthropogenic Roost Disturbance and Conservation Status<sup>#</sup>**

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**Abstract:** Species distribution, species-specific bat roost selection and types of foraging habitats are essential components for conservation of the bat species. Today, various bat populations and roosts are declining worldwide because of anthropogenic disturbance and destruction. Major threats to bats include increasing urbanization, habitat loss due to landscape use, climate change, environmental pollution, illegal killing and diseases. To date, 39 bat species have been found in Turkey. The most abundant species are *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* (Greater horseshoe bat), *Myotis myotis* (Greater mouse-eared bat), *M. blythii* (Lesser Mouse-eared bat), *Pipistrellus kuhlii* (Kuhl's Pipistrelle) and *Miniopterus schreibersii* (Common bent-winged bat). Turkish bats mainly prefer karstic caves for hibernacula and nursery colonies. Recently, the distribution of 22 bat species was determined from Cyprus. Compared with the 39 bat species in Turkey, this is a very significant number. However, the majority of the studies were conducted in the southern part of Cyprus. Therefore, the numbers of examined bat habitats and populations of bats are relatively small in the northern part. Cypriot bats also prefer caves, ruins and abandoned mines for roosting.

**Keywords:** *Chiroptera, Conservation, Roost selection, Ecosystem, Turkey, Cyprus*

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