



# Ask about Ireland



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## Common Pipistrelle & Soprano Pipistrelle

**Common pipistrelle:** (Latin: *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, Irish: *laltóg fheascrach*)

**Soprano Pipistrelle:** (Latin: *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, Irish: *An Fheascarluch Sopranach*)



Courtesy of Wexford County Library

**Size:**

Wingspan of up to 25cm and weighs just 4-8g

**Months seen:**

March to November. They hibernate during the winter months when food supplies are low.

**Habitat:** Pipistrelles roost in houses (in confined spaces rather than the main attic space) and hollows in trees.

**Food:** Midges, mosquitoes, small moths – they can eat up to 3,500 insects a night!

**Features:** There are two species of pipstrelle in Ireland – common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle. The soprano pipistrelle has a higher pitched sound and lighter coloured fur and skin compared to the common pipistrelle. They are Ireland's two smallest and most common species of bat.

Pipistrelles are most likely to be seen flying just after dusk, in both rural and urban areas. They tend to fly quickly at about head height. All bats tend to get dehydrated as they have a large skin area for their size. This is why they appear in the dark and are found in cool dark places.

**Other bat species in Ireland:** Leisler's bat; brown long-eared bat; Daubenton's bat; Natterer's bat; whiskered bat; lesser horseshoe bat; Brandt's bat.