

Two odd encounters with bats

Nicki Farmer

Encounter one

During a guided walk around the wetlands at Lower Moor in May 2017 I noticed some dried heads of the previous year's burdock plants near the edge of the Lench Ditch. There was something caught in the Velcro-like seed-heads which I initially thought were dead leaves. On closer inspection I noticed it was a small bat which was well and truly stuck to the hooks. The bat was an undetermined pipistrelle species (01). Unfortunately the poor creature was dead and looked like it had been there for a few days as there were fly-eggs in one of its ears. I was surprised that its echo-location had allowed it to become entangled unless it had landed on the plant to catch a spider or other prey. An internet search revealed lots of reports of this happening around the World but does it happen much in Worcestershire?



01. Dead pipistrelle bat caught on burdock seed head Lower Moor May 2017. Nicki Farmer

Encounter two

I work in the gardens at Hanbury Hall (National Trust) and in the orangery we have a large stone statue of Cupid. In August 2017 my colleagues Catherine Sobolewska and Neil Cook noticed that Cupid's modesty was being protected by an unexpected visitor. You will have to look closely at the picture (02) but there is a bat roosting unaware of the amusement it had caused. It gives a whole new meaning to having bats in your belfry!

It also begs the question "have you found bats roosting in odd places?"



02. Cupid and roosting bat. Catherine Sobolewska

Images

01. Dead pipistrelle bat caught on burdock seed head Lower Moor May 2017. Nicki Farmer

02. Cupid and roosting bat. Catherine Sobolewska