

# RECORDINGS OF BAT & BIRD SOUNDS

## UNITED KINGDOM

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DOC-RBB-UK1 United Kingdom 1998

### THE BAT DETECTIVE

Bat Sounds – Bat Pic Cover

#### Selections:

Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Serotine (*Eptesicus serotinus*), Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*), Leisler's Bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*), Long-eared bats (*Plecotus auritus* and *Plecotus austriacus*), Nathusius' Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus nathusii*), Barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*), Whiskered and Brandt's bats (*Myotis mystacinus* and *brandtii*), Daubenton's (*Myotis daubentonii*), Natterer's bat (*Myotis nattereri*), Bechstein's bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*), Greater horseshoe (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*), Lesser horseshoe (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*)

#### Prod:

**Prod. Co:** Batbox Ltd.

**Book Authors:** Brian Briggs & David King

**Time:** (?)

**CD:** THE BAT DETECTIVE (PC-BT#)

(Label & Cat. No. ?) (Tks 1 to 48)

**Notes:** A special package of 56-page field book guide to be used with a bat detector together with a CD, which includes 48 tracks of 14 British bat species.

The field guide is designed to aid the use of 'mini' bat detectors. "The book takes the reader through both the theoretical and practical aspects of the use of the bat detector, and covers all aspects of bat identification in the field, including 'jizz', flight style, foraging behaviour, roost finding, echolocation, and basic survey technique. As each topic is explained references are given to the relevant tracks on the CD. The 48 tracks found here are the first ever compilation of British bat recordings on CD." (Anon. n.d.) But certainly not the first ever British bat recordings (see above).

All of these bats are covered in Vesey-Fitzgerald's delightful old guide with the exception of the Nathusius' Pipistrelle and the Brandt's bat.

A device was designed to be used with this CD and field guide book. Here is the advertisement description – "The new Magenta Bat5 Digital



Quartz Bat Detector has a backlit 4 digit LCD frequency display, a high stability, easily tuned local oscillator and advanced amplification and filtering circuits." (Anon. 2014)

**Ref:** Anon. 2011, Typical Recorders Used for Recording Bats, [blogspot.fr](http://blogspot.fr)

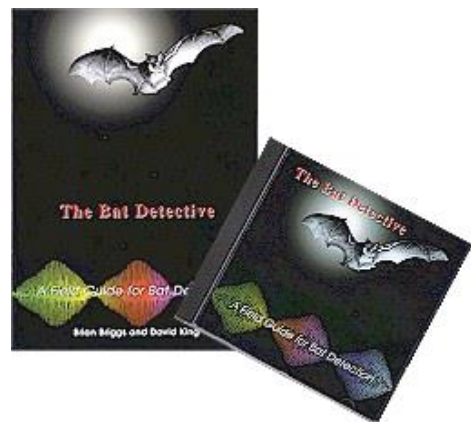
Anon. 2014, Magenta Bat Detector, [wildlifeservices](http://wildlifeservices)

Anon. n.d., What Is a Bat Detector?, [green-witch](http://green-witch)

The Bat Detective Book & CD, Batbox, Review, [green-witch](http://green-witch)

The Bat Detective: A Field Guide to Bat Detection, Book Chapters, [uksafari](http://uksafari)

The Bat Detective: A Field Guide to Bat Detection, Product Review, [Amazon](http://Amazon)



Briggs, Brian & King, David, *The Bat Detective: A Field Guide to Bat Detection*, Book & CD, NHBS, [nhbs](http://nhbs.com)  
Burton, John F. 2013, *Bat Detecting – An Excellent Hobby*, Wildlife Sound Recording Society, [blogspot.fr](http://blogspot.fr)  
Messina, Tony 2011, *The Bat Scanner – Bat Detector*, [blogspot.fr](http://blogspot.fr)  
Vesey-Fitzgerald, Brian 1949, *British Bats*, Methuen & Co. Ltd., London

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DOC-RBB-UK2 United Kingdom 1977

## Bats Calling Bats Squeaking and Flying

Bat Sounds

**Prod:** Mike Harding

**Prod. Co:** BBC Enterprises; London

**Rec. Eng:** Eric Simms

**Liner Notes:** Ian Richardson

**Time:** (Part 9) 0:34 & (Part 10) 0:32

A. British **LP:** SOUND EFFECTS NO. 13 – DEATH & HORROR  
BBC 22269

B. German **LP:** SOUND EFFECTS NO. 13 – DEATH & HORROR  
Intercord INT 128.001

C. Canadian **LP:** SOUND EFFECTS NO. 13 – DEATH & HORROR  
Total TRC 911

**Spec:** (All) 12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 2 – Parts 9 & 10)

**Notes:** These two recordings of bat sounds, presented here under the section "Monsters & Animals," were taken directly from those of the Greater Horseshoe Bats made by Eric Simms in July 1955, which were previously released by the BBC on the British Mammals & Amphibians LP (see just below). Simms is mentioned and given credit in the liner notes on this LP.

The LP cover has four tiny bats in the distance silhouetted against the moon.

**Ref:** Sound Effects No. 13 – Death & Horror LP, [Discogs](http://discogs.com)

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DOC-RBB-UK3 United Kingdom 1969

## The Bats or Flying Mammals

Bat Sounds

### Selections:

1. BARBASTELLE (*Barbastella barbastellus*) Audible squeaks (Simms, London, Dec. 1655)
2. LEISLER'S BAT (*Nyctalus leisleri*) Squeaks & chatter (Simms, Dorset, July 1955)
3. GREATER HORSESHOE BAT (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*) a. Calls of hungry young; b. Adults flying (Simms, Dorset, July 1955)
4. NOCTULE BAT (*Nyctalus noctula*) a. Audible squeaks (Simms, Hertfordshire, Nov. 1960); b. Ultra-sonic signals at 25 K/c's of hunting bats (John Hooper, Surrey, July 1964)
5. DAUBENTON'S BAT (*Myotis daubentoni*) Ultra-sonic signals at 45 K/c's of hunting bats (John Hooper, Surrey, July 1964)
6. PIPISTRELLE (*Vesperugo pipistrellus*) a. Ultra-sonic signals at 50 K/c's of hunting bats (John Hooper, Surrey, Jul. 1964); b. Audible squeaks from colony (Thomas W. Rudd, Westmorland, June 1962)

**Nar:** Eric Simms

**Prod. Co:** BBC Enterprises; London

**Rec. Eng:** Eric Simms, John Hooper, & Thomas W. Rudd

**Time:** (?)

**LP:** BRITISH MAMMALS AND AMPHIBIANS – BBC Wildlife Series No. 2

**Label:** BBC RED 42M

**Spec:** 12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 2)



**Notes:** Probably the first cave bat recordings ever released, In 1950 Eric Simms was the director of the BBC's natural history recording projects. And in 1969 he was a freelance Broadcaster presenting and directing television and radio programs. Simms is considered today "one of the pioneers of wildlife sound recording." (Burton 2013)

The well-known British bat researcher, John Hooper, contributed recordings to this memorable collection of bat sounds. Hooper used a specially designed "bat detector," the Holgate Ultrasonic Receiver, which came out in 1963 to meet a set of requirements defined by bat workers within the Mammal Society.



Eric SIMMS – Photo by F.R. Elwell

**Ref:** Anon. 2013, Eric Simms (Ornithologist), [Wikipedia](#)

Anon. n.d., John H.D. Hooper and Winifred M. Hooper – Bibliography, [tiscali.co.uk](#)

Burton, John F. 2013, Bat Detecting – An Excellent Hobby, Wildlife Sound Recording Society, [blogspot.fr](#)

Glanvill, Peter 2006, John Hooper, Obit, The Guardian, 16 Feb. 2006, [theguardian](#)

Hooper, John 1962, *Horseshoe Bats*, Sunday Times Book Publication. p. 17

Hooper, John 1969, Listening to Bats, *The Journal of the Devon Trust*, n. 20, Mar.1969, p. 858-862

Vesey-Fitzgerald, Brian 1949, *British Bats*, Methuen & Co. Ltd., London

**DOC-RBB-UK4** Sweden 1975

## [European Bats]

Bat Sounds

### Selections:

1. *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* GREATER HORSESHOE BAT. Adult flying & hungry young calling in loft of a house. (Simms, Dorset, July 1955) – 1:00

2. *Rhinolophus Hipposidros* LESSER HORSESHOE BAT. Chattering squeaks used in communication. (Hans Lütgens, Hammeln, W. Germany, Mar. 1964) – 0:19

3. *Myotis myotis* LARGE MOUSE-EARED BAT. Disturbed bats in their dormitory in a tower. Angry buzzing escalates into hoarse screaming chorus. (Lütgens, Hanover, W. Germany, July 1963) – 0:42

4. *Barbastella barbastellus* BARBASTELLE. Deep, hoarse communication squeaks are interspersed with clicks, which are probably audible components of echo-location pulses. (Simms, London, Dec. 1955) – 0:40

5. *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* about twenty-five individuals at squeaks. (Thomas R. Rudd, June 1965) – 0:45

6. *Nyctalus noctula* NOCTULE. squeak heard when the bat is screech when excited. (Lütgens, Germany, Mar.1963) – 0:36

7. *Nyctalus leisleri* LEISLER'S chattering adult (Simms, Dorset,



Pipistrelle Bat – Illus. by E.A.R. Ennion

PIPISTRELLE. Cluster of roost giving hoarse Warcop, Westmoreland,

Voice, a shrill metallic hunting; also a strident Tiergarten, Hanover, W.

BAT. Squeaking & July 1955) – 0:35

**Nar:** (?) Jeffrey Boswell

**Prod:** Sture Palmér & Jeffrey Boswell

**Prod. Co:** Swedish Broadcasting Corp.; Stockholm

**Rec. Eng:** Eric Simms, Hans Lütgens, & Thomas W. Rudd

**Liner Notes:** (8-page Booklet) Sture Palmér & Jeffrey Boswell, 1974 (4-page booklet in Swedish)

**Time:** (See above)

**LP:** A FIELD GUIDE TO MAMMAL VOICES OF EUROPE – Record 1

**Label:** SR RFLP 5016 (mono)

**Spec:** 12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 2)

**Notes:** Even though this is a Swedish release it has been placed here with the British releases because four of the bat recordings here were made in England and the other three were made in West Germany.

Three of the bats sounds presented here were already released by Eric Simms on the BBC Records LP in 1969 (see [DOC-RBB-UK3](#)). The four new bat recordings were made by Hans Lütgens in West Germany and Thomas R. Rudd in Westmoreland (the latter had one bat recording on the previous LP).

Each of the seven species here is presented in the booklet with its Latin name plus its other common names in English, Danish, Finnish, German, French, Norwegian, and Swedish.

The notes quote Hooper – "Besides direction-finding sounds usually well above the range of human hearing, adult Greater Horseshoe Bats produce lower frequency noises which are perfectly audible to the human ear. These are squeaking or 'chittering' sounds, which often give an unmistakable indication of annoyance or excitement when the bats are disturbed .... The ever-hungry babies await their return with audible impatience, maintaining an unbroken chorus of squeaks."

**Ref:** Hooper, John D., Recording the Ultrasounds of Bats, *Recorded Sound*, n. 34, Apr. 1969, British Institute of Recorded Sound, London, p. 450-455

Hooper, John 1962, *Horseshoe Bats*, Sunday Times Book Publication. p. 17

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**DOC-RBB-UK5** United Kingdom 1997

## Smoo Cave Carnyx

Sea Gull Sounds

**Prod. Co:** Kilmartin House Museum

**Rec. Eng:** (?)

**Rec. Date:** June 6, 1996

**Time:**

**CD:** THE KILMARTIN SESSIONS (WD#)

Kilmartin House (No catalog number) (Tk 23)

**Notes:** A special piece performed on the carnyx inside Smoo Cave near Cape Wrath in northwest Scotland (see [RIC#](#) ).

"The 'Smoo Cave Carnyx' cut comes complete with running water and the sound of bats startled -- quite rightfully -- by the loud tones of the carnyx!" (Mackenzie 1997) However, I am told by British cavers, Martin & Kirsty Mills, who have studied this cave that they have never seen any bats there and that these sounds were more likely those of sea gulls flying around the entrance. (Mills 2013)

**Ref:** Bedford, Bruce 1985, *Underground Britain*, Willow Books-Collins, London, p. 164

Duckeck, Jochen 3011, Smoo Cave, [ShowCaves](#)

The Kilmartin Sessions – The Sounds of ancient Scotland, Listen to Music, [catalog.dccc](#)

Mackenzie, Iain Nicholas 1997, The Kilmartin Sessions, [greenmanreview](#)

Mills, Martin & Kirsty 2012, The Great Cave of Smoo, *The Grampian Speleological Group Bulletin*, Fourth Series, v. 5, n. 2, March 2012, p. 37-46, [gsg.org.uk](#)

Mills, Martin & Kirsty 2013, Personal communication, July 21, 2013, Brno, Czech Republic

Oldham, Tony 1975, *The Caves of Scotland*, Bristol, p. 146

Smoo Cave, [Wikipedia](#)



[caveinspiredmusic.com](http://caveinspiredmusic.com)