

# FACT FILE: mammal



weight **10 KILOS**



food



young are called **POPS**

lifespan  
**15 YEARS**

active  **NIGHTS**



the  
**WATER  
of LEITH**  
Conservation Trust

# European Otter

Scientific name:  
**Lutra lutra**



European Otter Range

did you  
**know?**

Fish are the staple of their diet. This is often supplemented by frogs, crayfish and crabs. Some otters are expert at opening shellfish.



did you  
**know?**

The word otter comes from the Old English word otor or oter. This is also the origin for the word water.

Home  
Sweet  
Home



The European Otter's holt (den) is usually a burrow or hollow tree on the riverbank which can sometimes only be entered from underwater.

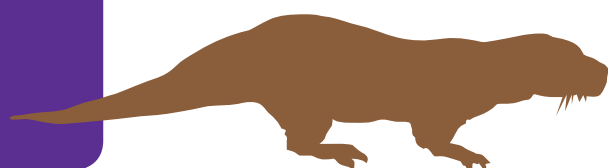


did you  
**know?**

An otter's den is called a holt or couch. The collective nouns for otters are bevy, family, lodge or romp.



Otters are very active, chasing prey in the water or searching the beds of rivers, lakes or the seas. River otters usually enter a river only to hunt or travel, otherwise spending much of their time on land to avoid their fur becoming waterlogged.





# FACT FILE: mammal



weight  
LESS THAN A 2P PIECE



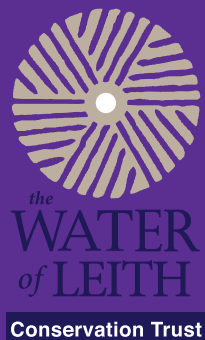
food



young are called PUPS

lifespan  
30 YEARS

active  NIGHTS



did you  
know?

In the United Kingdom we have 18 different kinds of bats? That's almost one quarter of all our mammal species. On the Water of Leith we have two different bats: the Daubenton and Pipistrelle.

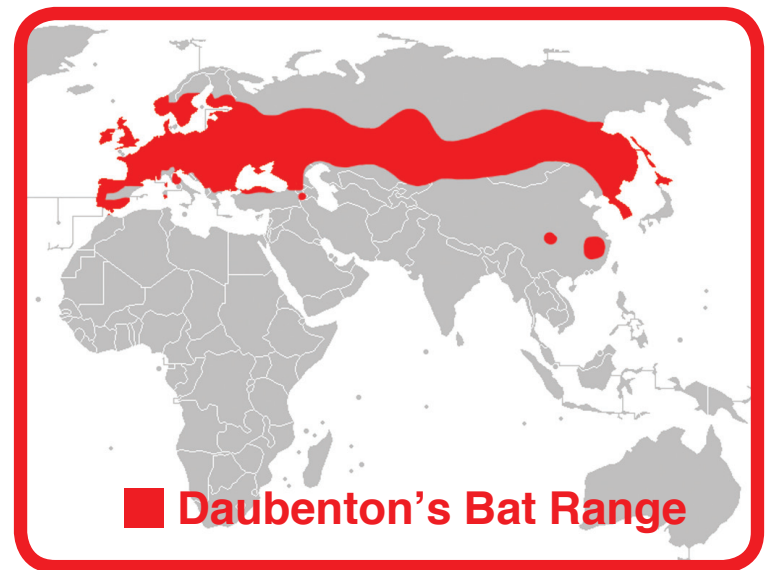
## Bats:

## Daubenton's

Scientific name:  
*Myotis daubentonii*



Length: 45-55mm Wingspan: 240-275 mm



Daubenton's Bat Range

Home  
Sweet  
Home



In Scotland bats tend to roost in old buildings, tree holes and crevices. They enter their hibernating sites in October but only hibernate from December or January until the end of March or early April.

did you  
know?

A bat is able to consume one third of its body weight in insects each night, and several hundred insects in a few hours. This means that a group of one thousand bats could eat four tonnes of insects each year.

did you  
know?

Bats aren't blind at all. In fact they can see just as well as most of us humans. However, they're nocturnal which means that they usually only come out at night, so they have to hunt for their food in the dark.

To navigate in the dark they use a system called echolocation. The bat emits a series of high-pitched calls as it flies and can tell by the length of time the sound takes to come back the distance and location of their prey.



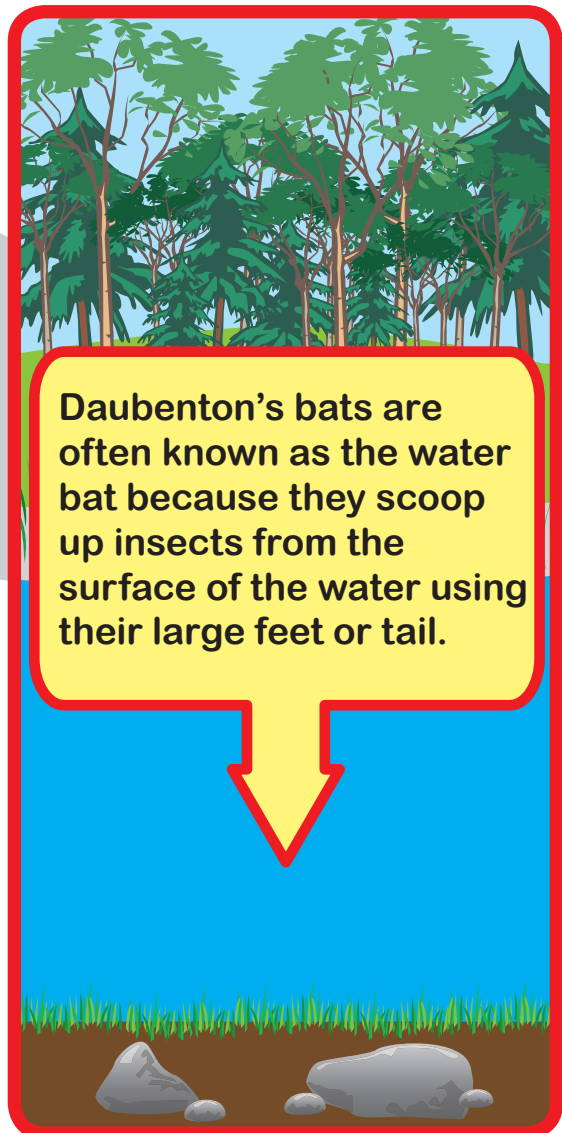
## Pipistrelle

Scientific name:  
*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

Length: 35mm-45mm Wingspan: 200mm-235 mm

did you  
know?

Bats fly at speeds of up to 25 kph above the surface of the water.



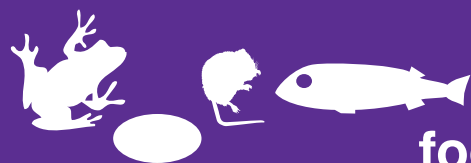
Daubenton's bats are often known as the water bat because they scoop up insects from the surface of the water using their large feet or tail.



# FACT FILE: mammal



weight 1 kilo



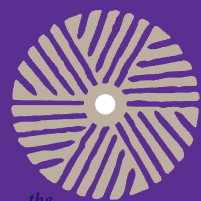
food



young are called kits

lifespan  
6 YEARS

active  DAYS



the  
WATER  
of LEITH  
Conservation Trust

Home  
Sweet  
Home



The European mink's burrow is located near the water's edge. The burrow consists of 1-2 passages leading to a nest chamber. Nesting chambers are lined with straw, moss, mouse wool and bird feathers.

did you  
know?

A female mink is called a sow. A male mink is called a boar.



Scientific name:  
*Mustela lutreola*

# European Mink

did you  
know?

It is a fast and agile animal, which swims and dives skillfully. It is able to run along stream beds, and stay underwater for 1-2 minutes. When swimming, it paddles with both its front and back limbs simultaneously.



did you  
know?

The European Mink is considered an endangered species in Europe.



did you  
know?

The fur is blackish-brown with a distinctive small band of white fur around the lips and throat. This marking distinguishes the European mink from the American mink.



Size: .5 meter (2 feet)  
Tail: Round and furry  
Face: Pointed muzzle like a cat  
Personality: Not afraid of humans

**Mink  
v  
Otter**

Size: 1.2 meters (4 feet)  
Tail: Long, tapering, sleek and muscly  
Face: Broad muzzle  
Personality: Shy



Mink sometimes live in towns, if suitable water is available. In Scotland they can be found by the seaside. They will leave the water, especially when looking for rabbits, one of their favorite foods. Mink may be seen at all hours, even when people are nearby.



# FACT FILE: mammal



size 14-22 CM



food



lifespan  
2 YEARS

active  DAYS



the  
WATER  
of LEITH

Conservation Trust

# Water Vole

Scientific name:  
*Arvicola amphibius*

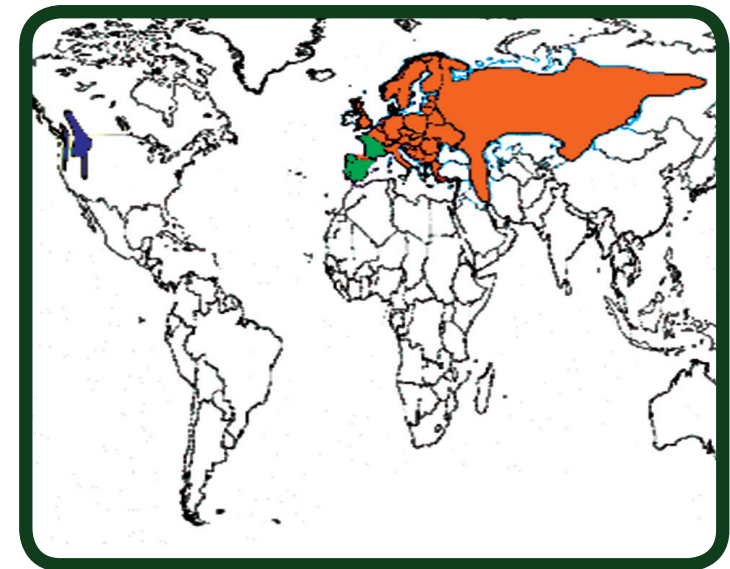


## did you know?

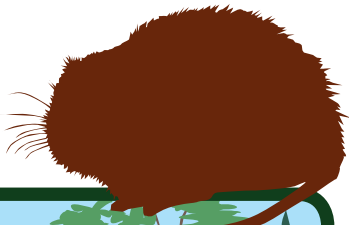
A water vole named Ratty is a leading character in the children's book *Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame. The character's name "Ratty" has become widely associated with the species and their riverbank habitat, as well as the misconception that they are a species of rat.

## did you know?

In Europe, when there is enough food to last water voles a long time, water vole "plagues" can take place. Water voles eat ravenously, destroying entire fields of grass and leaving the fields full of burrows, during these plagues.



 Northern Water Vole  
 Southern Water Vole  
 American Water Vole



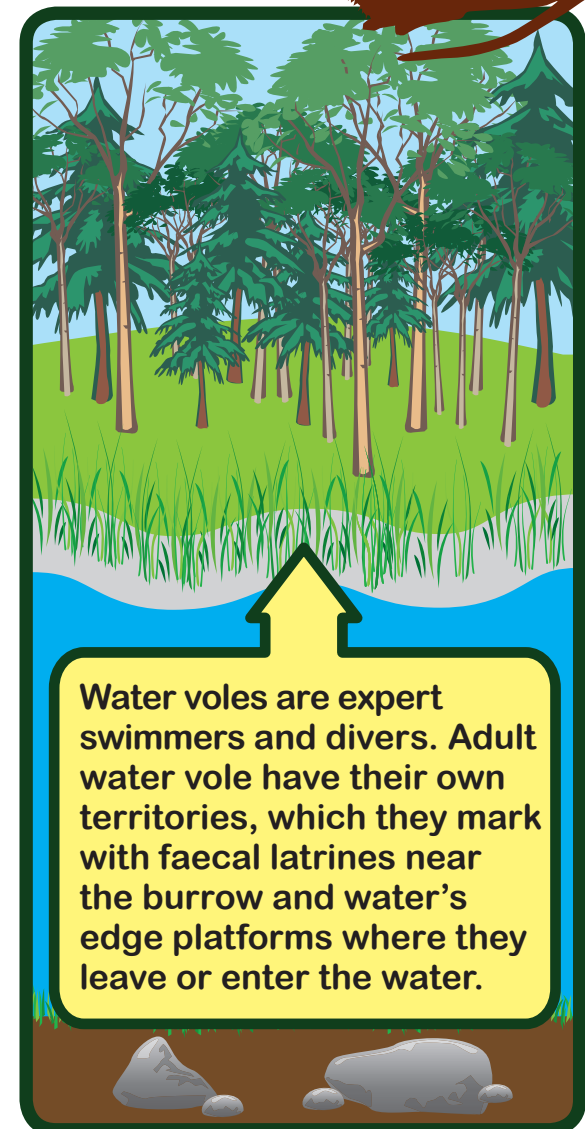
## did you know?

Riparian means relating to a riverbank. Water voles prefer riparian vegetation which provides cover to conceal them when they are above ground near the river.



## Home Sweet Home

Water voles live in burrows within the banks of rivers, ditches, ponds, and streams. They also live in reed beds where they weave ball shaped nests above ground.



Water voles are expert swimmers and divers. Adult water voles have their own territories, which they mark with faecal latrines near the burrow and water's edge platforms where they leave or enter the water.