

Bat World Records



Chiropterans are the only mammalian group capable of self-powered flight - and this extraordinary achievement proceeded the massive adaptive radiation of bats into diverse ecological niches. As such, bats exhibit contrasting flight styles, the broadest range of dietary adaptations of any mammalian group and an incredible display of record-setting achievements (e.g., dietary specializations, extreme morphologies, unparalleled capabilities).

RECORD MIGRATION

Migrating populations of *Pipistrellus nathusii* (Nathusius' pipistrelle) traverse extraordinary distances across Europe, "follow[ing] the convoluted coastline of the Baltic Sea..." A new record migration distance of 2,486 km from Russia to the French Alps exceeds the previous record flight from Latvia to Spain by 260 km, and because bats do not fly in a straight line, this record-setting distance may actually exceed 3,000 km.

SUPERMOM

Haplonycteris fischeri (Philippine pygmy fruit bats) have the longest gestation period reported for any bat - an incredible 11.5 months. *Desmodus rotundus* (common vampire bats) places second, having the most extreme duration of both gestation and lactation, gestating for 205 days and lactating for up to 10 months.

MIGHTY SMALL

Craseonycteris thonglongyai - Kitti's hog-nosed bat or bumblebee bat - weighs approximately two grams as an adult, earning recognition as the "smallest known extant mammal."



EXTREME NAME

At four letters, the great evening bat's scientific name - *laio* - represents the shortest existing, and shortest possible, scientific name under the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (save the dinosaur *Yi qi*). It is also one of very few scientific names composed solely of vowels.

OLYMPIAN SPEED

Molossids occupy an extreme morphospace, with *Tadarida brasiliensis* (Mexican free-tailed bats) exploiting an aerial niche reminiscent of swifts and swallows. *T. brasiliensis* demonstrate the fastest horizontal flight speeds - 99.5 miles per hour.

LONGEVITY CHAMPION

A male *Myotis brandtii* (Brandt's bat) - the world's longevity champion - "Its reported maximal lifespan of at least 41 years makes it the most extreme mammal with regard to disparity between body mass and longevity."