

The importance of historic buildings in Portugal in the conservation of bats

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Introduction

The Monastery of São Martinho de Tibães is one of the many historic buildings in Portugal that support numerous bat species by providing favorable conditions as roost throughout the year, with greater importance in the most critical periods for survival, hibernation and breeding, as well as the use of these places for foraging. Since 2007, 12 species of bats have been identified in the Monastery.

Objective

The evaluation of the fauna that benefits from these structures and the period of the year in which the occupation takes place is crucial and preponderant to carry out planning that aims at the conservation of bats and other species.

Methodology

The inventory of bat species in the Monastery has been collected since 2007, through the monitoring of roost, sessions of bat calls recorded and capture sessions with mist nets.



Fig 1. Area view of the Monastery of São Martinho de Tibães by GoogleEarth.



Fig 2. Monastery location.

Results



Fig 3. *Myotis emarginatus* inside the monastery.



Fig 4. Capture sessions with mist nets in the agricultural area.



Fig 5. Capture sessions with mist nets in the hardwood habitat.



Fig 6. Number of species registered in breeding, hibernation and others seasons in the roosts.

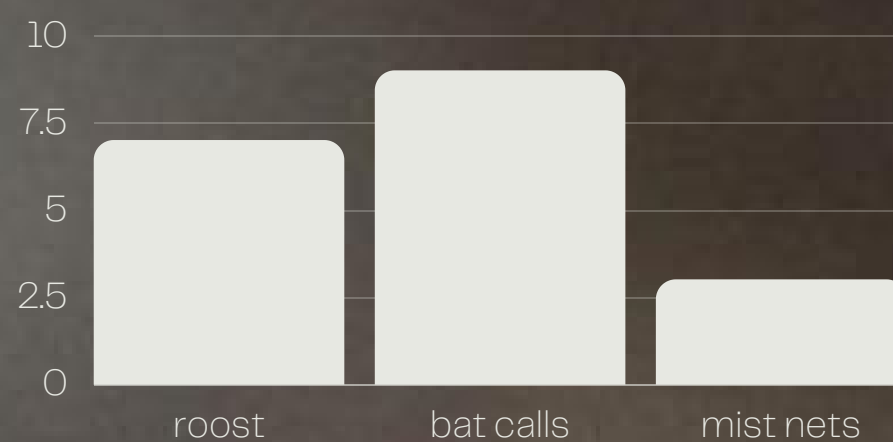


Fig 7. Number of species registered in the roosts, in the bat sound sessions recorded and in the capture sessions with mist nets.



A breeding colony of *Rhinolophus hipposideros*



A breeding colony of *Myotis emarginatus*

Bat species registered in the Monastery

Rhinolophus ferrumequinum (VU)
Rhinolophus euryale (CR)
Rhinolophus hipposideros (VU)
Myotis emarginatus (DD)
Myotis escaleraei (VU)
Pipistrellus pipistrellus (LC)
Pipistrellus kuhlii (LC)
Plecotus austriacus (LC)
Nyctalus leisleri (DD)
Eptesicus serotinus (LC)
Barbastella barbastellus (DD)
Tadarida teniotis (DD)

Conservation status according to the LVVP Portugal, 2005

Conclusion

Although classification as a roost of national importance is an important record, **legally it is insufficient, since interventions for the restoration and rehabilitation of buildings in Portugal do not require technical advice.** The **evaluation of the fauna that benefits from these structures** and the **period of the year in which the occupation takes place is crucial and preponderant to carry out planning that aims at the conservation of bats and other species.**