CALF OF MAN

Bat Activity Assessment 2025

Static acoustic monitoring on a small, exposed Irish Sea island

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A small island with a big ecological question

The setting changes what we should expect from bat activity



~250 ha

500 m offshore

128 m

highest point

Low heath, acid grassland, bracken and exposure to the Irish Sea.

Research question **Which bats are present, when are they active, is there seasonal variance?**

Four recording sessions. One detector.

MAY — JUN — JUL — OCT

The Withy

May–July: pond and scrub area

Jane’s House

October: recording moved to the derelict dwelling



Who are we talking about?



Whiskered Bat



Daubenton's Bat



Natterers Bat



Brown Long-eared Bat



Leisler's Bat





Common and Soprano Pipistrelle

From ultrasound to evidence

Record → classify → vet → interpret

1

WAV files

Song Meter Mini

2

Auto-classification

SonoBat v30.0

3

Verification

Manual checks

4

Bat pass

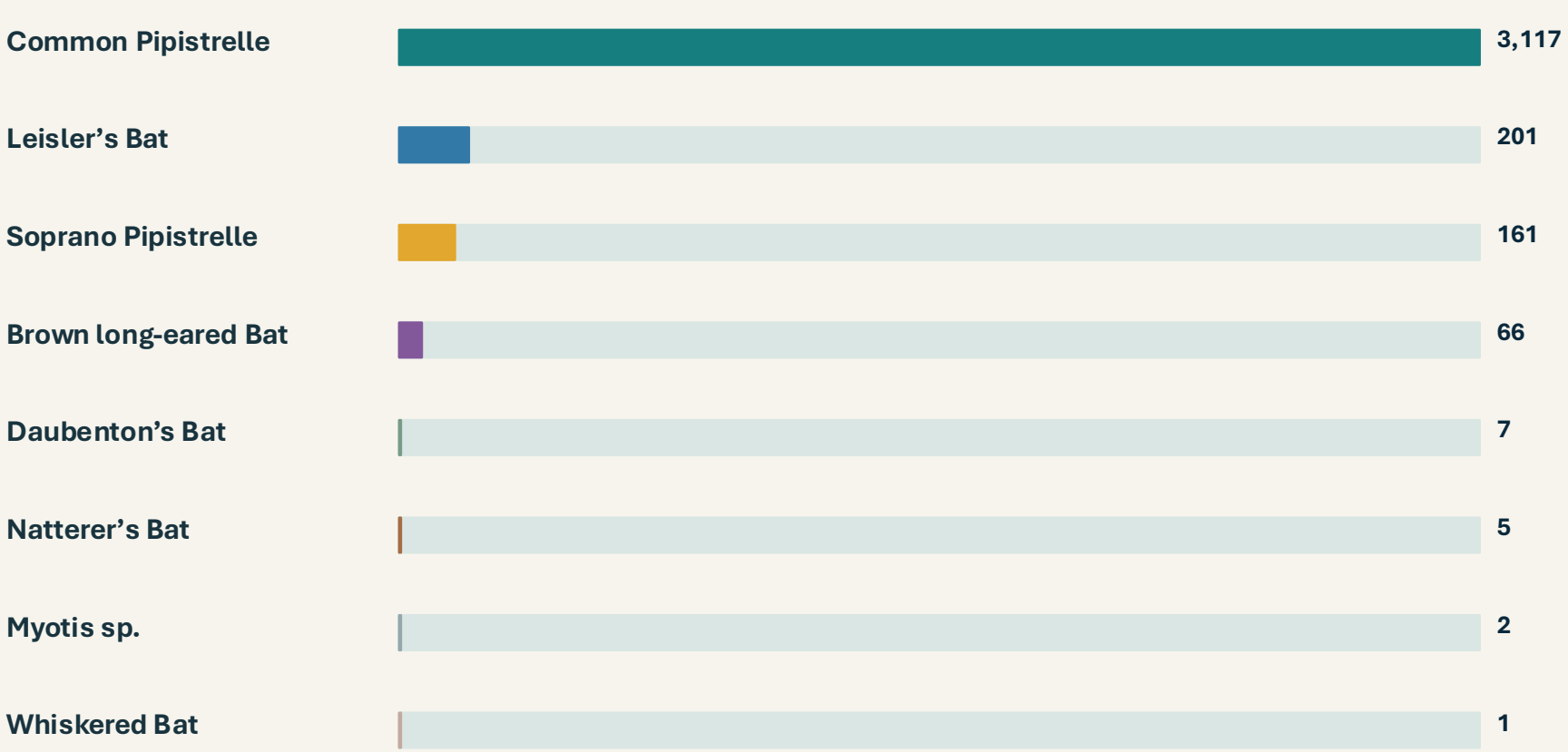
One sound file

A bat pass is a proxy for activity, not abundance.

100 files could represent one bat passing repeatedly or several bats.

3,560 bat passes, but one species dominated

Eight taxa / call groups were recorded



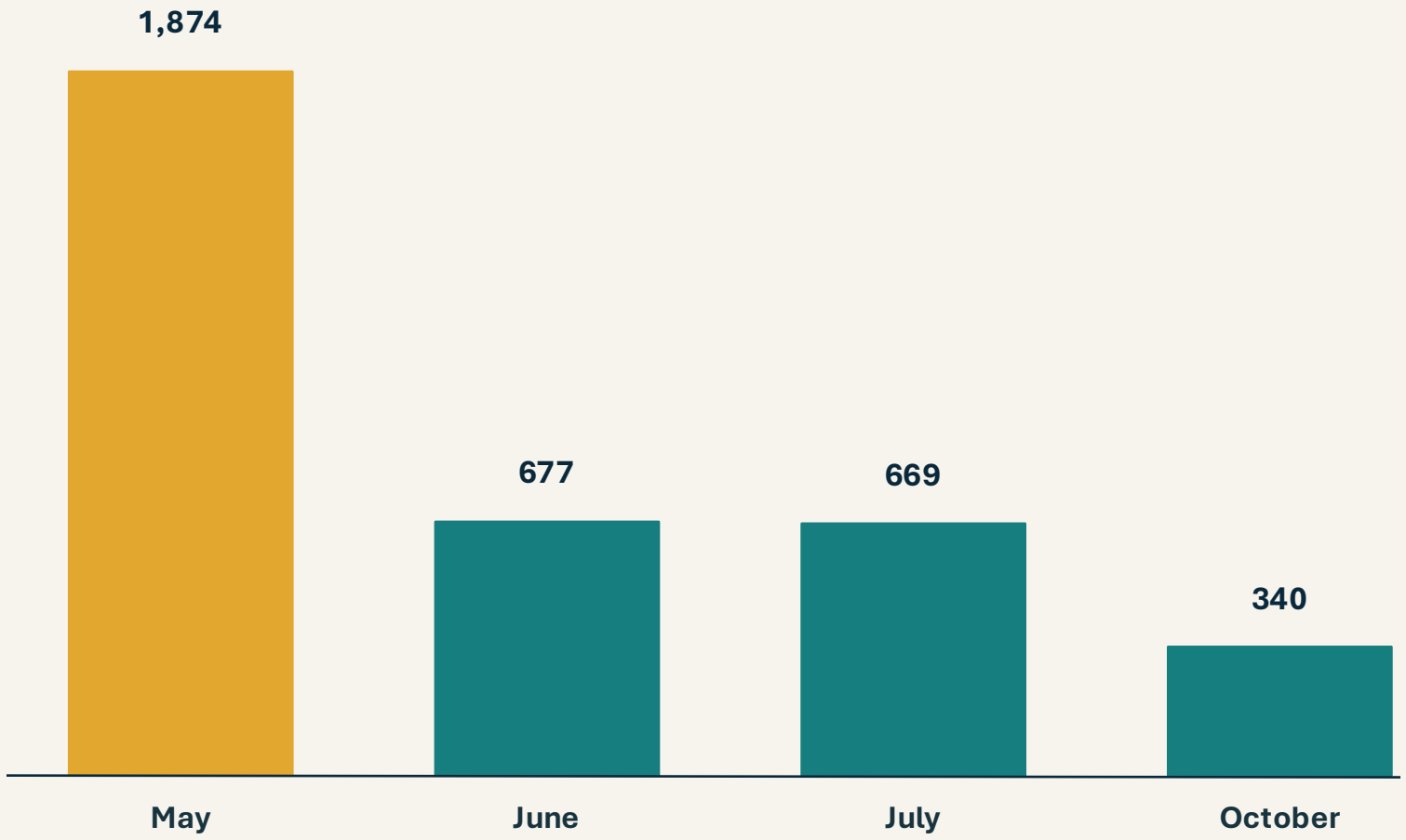
82%

Common Pipistrelle of all passes

The assemblage was broader than the exposed habitat might suggest.

Activity fell sharply after May

Total bat passes by recording month



1,748

Common Pipistrelle passes in May

340

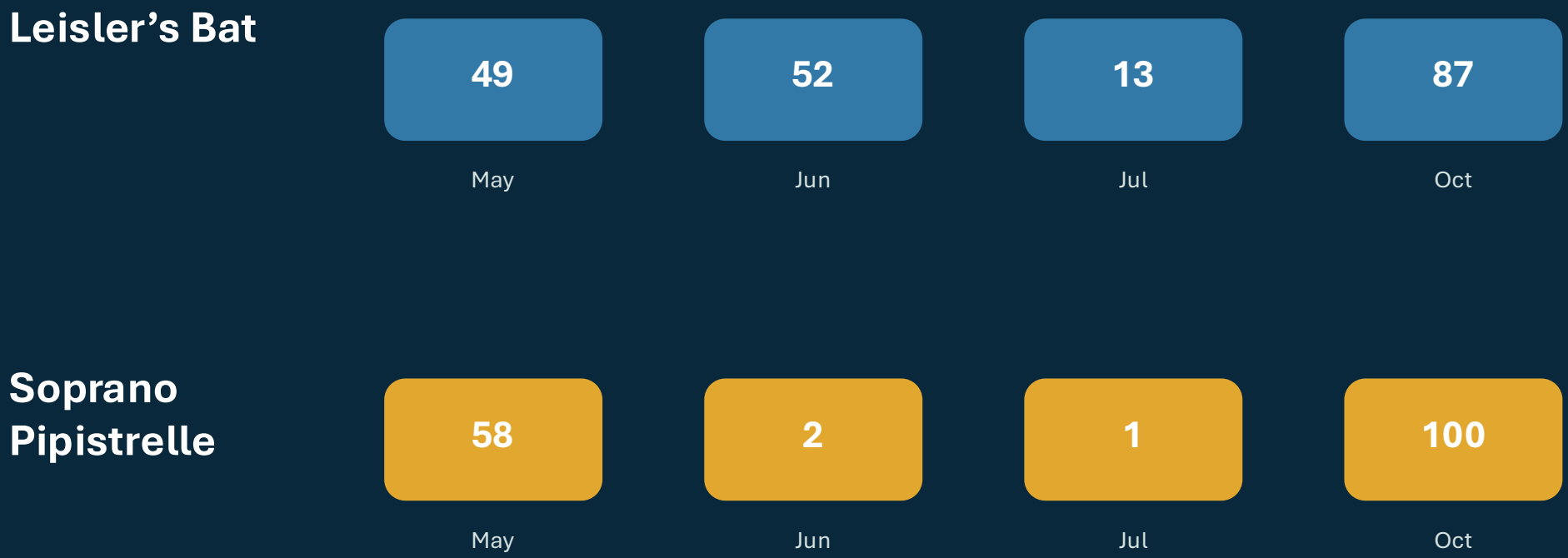
all bat passes in October

Interpretation

The report considers activity low overall, with May the clear exception.

October tells a different story

Two species increased while overall activity declined



The report discusses autumn dispersal / mating as possible context, but does not claim the October records demonstrate migration.

The less expected records may be the most interesting

Species linked with more cluttered or sheltered habitat were still detected

Brown long-eared

66 passes

Present in every sampled month

Natterer’s

5 passes

1 in June, 4 in October

Daubenton’s

7 passes

Detected in all four sessions

Whiskered

1 pass

Recorded in May

A 33-minute clue to possible local roosting

Early-evening Common Pipistrelle activity merits follow-up

03 JUN 2025

21:44

sunset

↓ 33 minutes

22:17

Common Pipistrelle file

The report considers this timing close to expected emergence and recommends investigation of possible roosting on the Calf.

Evidence level

Suggestive, not conclusive

Targeted roost surveys would test the hypothesis directly.

What should happen next?

The first season created a baseline. The next season can test the signals.

01 **Investigate roosting**

Target Common Pipistrelle around likely structures and early emergence.

02 **Restore late-summer coverage**

August and September were the major seasonal gap in 2025.

03 **Broaden spatial coverage**

More than one detector position would reduce dependence on a single locality.

TAKE-HOME

Bats use the Calf regularly, seasonally and in a more diverse way than its exposed landscape might first suggest.