

Aughnanure Dawn Swarm August 31st

The 12th European Bat Night will take place on 30-31 Aug 2008

Dawn swarm!!

You may have heard (or heard of!) a dawn chorus for birds. Well, bats do it slightly differently – they swarm!

On the morning of Sunday 31 August, in celebration of European bat night in which events will take place all over Europe, members of the public are invited to Aughnanure Castle to witness a truly spectacular event.

The castle near Oughterard is home to at least three species of bats. Most are **Daubenton's** bats but a few **Long-Eared** and **Pipistrelles** bats are also present. Just before dawn, hundreds of bats swarm in the air before entering the castle for a days rest.

The Galway Bat Group is inviting members of the public to come along to the castle at 5.00 a.m. (yes – it's early!) to witness the swarming. The event will be completely free of charge. Please meet at Aughnanure castle car park at 05.00 a.m. and bring a small torch if possible.

No previous experience is needed. Booking is not required and the event is suitable for all ages.

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European Bat Night

The event, organised by **EUROBATS**, takes place every year in more than 30 countries. Nature conservation agencies and NGOs from across Europe pass on information to the public about the way bats live and their needs with presentations, exhibitions and bat walks, often offering the opportunity to listen to bat sounds with the support of ultrasound technology. The general date is set for the last weekend in August; however, local organisers sometimes choose other dates if more convenient.

<http://www.eurobats.org/index.htm>

links:

Bat Conservation Ireland

<http://www.batconservationireland.org/>

Northern Ireland Bat Group

<http://www.bats-ni.org.uk/>

Bat Conservation Trust

<http://www.bats.org.uk/>

Bat Conservation International

<http://www.batcon.org/home/index.asp?idPage=4>

Societas Europaea Mammalogica

<http://www.european-mammals.org/>