

Eptesicus nilssonii (Keyserling & Blasius, 1839) **Northern bat**

Measurements – Head-body length (45) 54-64 (68) mm; Tail length (35) 37-48 (50) mm; Forearm length (37) 38-43 (44) mm; Wingspan 240-280 mm; Weight (6,5) 8,5-12,5 (18) g.

Ecology – Occurs in open habitat, in wetland and towns. Roosts in crevices in rocks or buildings and also in tree holes. Sedentary, longest movement recorded between winter and summer quarters is 445 km. Feeds mainly on Diptera Chironomidae and Tipulidae, Lepidoptera, Neuroptera and Hemiptera. Females give birth to one or two young in June-July.

Range – Occurs in northern Europe up to 70°25' N (where it is the only breeding species), in central and eastern Europe, no records from Great Britain and Ireland and almost absent from western and southern Europe; found east to Korea and Japan, to north-western China, Kashmir and Nepal.

In Italy seems to be confined to the Alps.