

Bat harp trapping Organ Pipes NP 16-18 March

It was pouring rain all day and stopped right on 7 p.m., just as I was about to give up on the trapping going ahead. Natasha and Debbie drove up and anticipating a dry night, set up two traps, one at each end of the track



Next morning there were 4 bats in trap 1 and 17 in trap 4, only two species, Gould's and Large Forest.



So an hour in the Visitor Centre was all that was needed, with Natasha and Debbie assessing and Roibert scribing.



The scales didn't seem to register correct weight, so Natasha brought out her calibrating 100 gram metal block, which registered as 64 grams.



Debbie took the bats home, to return after dark and release them. She and Natasha returned late afternoon to set up the two traps again, for another dry night.



Next morning at 7:30 there was one Small Forest bat in trap 4, and Susannah Hale, an undergraduate at Deakin, came in the hope of seeing lots of little bats, wanting to become part of our little batting community.



C27 had popped out its top coach screw and was hanging upside down, so I drilled a new hole and repositioned it upright.



When we returned to the car park we found Sylvia and two friends awaiting us so stayed for a chat. She is soon to fly off to WA to get started on her dolphin research.



Susannah Hale

Next box check: sometime in April, probably Saturday 28th at the usual 2 p.m. Will let you know.

Species	Both days	%	M	F
Gould's	18	81.8	9	9
Large Forest	3	13.6	3	
Small Forest	1	4.5	1	
Total	22	100.0	13	9

A bit of a let-down after last year's 162 bats trapped, but the wet weather was not predictable and these things must be organized many weeks in advance, so we take our chances.

That was four trap-nights and the smallest result per trap-night in several years.

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
10.4	6.1	18.1	12.8	16.2	11.8	5.5