The exercise demonstrated the sexual dimorphism, with females heavier and with forearm measurements larger than males, in this case by 4.6%. This is a slightly larger margin than that reported by Stebbings (1977) though the small sample size may not have been representative of the poulation as a whole.

Although the forearm measurements are all within the size ranges quoted for *P. auritus* in Stebbings (1967, 1977, 1986a, 1986b) and Yalden (1985) and the weights are within those for *Plecotus auritus* given in Stebbings (1986b), the mean forearm lengths are dangerously close to those of the grey long-eared bat (*P. austriacus*) as demonstrated in Stebbings (1967).

The apparently high mean values may be a reflection of the small sample size or indeed the measuring technique of the author.

However, a further explanation may be the possible size cline in the British population as suggested by Stebbings (1977), with size increasing from south to north (see Table 2).

TABLE 2

Mean forearm lengths from *Plecotus auritus* population in Britain (from Stebbings 1977)

(* this study)

	Dorset	Suffolk	Notts.	*S. Yorks	Inverness
♀	38.3(n=46)	38.5(n=35)	38.3(n=31)	40.75(n=6)	39.2(n=23)
♂	37.5(n=38)	37.6(n=32)	?	38.88(n=8)	38.2(n=28)

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LEISLER'S BATS IN WAKEFIELD

In 1981, a dead female Leisler's bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*) was picked up from Bretton Park, Wakefield (Thompson, 1981) and this was considered the first modern record for Yorkshire of this scarce bat. Since the formation of the Wakefield Bat Group in 1989, there have been three further instances of Leisler's bat in the district. The first was of a nursery colony of 23 animals in a modern bungalow in Notton, Wakefield, a surprising find in what was a 'classic' Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) type roost. This was followed in 1990 by an adult female in the living quarters of a house in Horbury, Wakefield and recently in 1991, a small transitional roost of seven Leisler's was located in a church at Bretton, Wakefield. The immediate implication of these finds is that, in Wakefield, one can no longer safely assume that all large bats flying in the early evening are noctules (*Nyctalus noctula*). As bat studies in Wakefield progress, it is probable that Leisler's bat may prove to be far more abundant than current records suggest.

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