

PARENTAL CARE IN THE KELAART'S PIPISTRELLE, *PIPISTRELLUS*
CEYLONICUS CHRYSOTHRIX (WROUGHTON)

Parental care in bats is relatively little known. Recently an observation on maternal care in *Pipistrellus ceylonicus chrysothrix* (Wroughton) was made which is reported here.

On 3rd September 1981, at about 18.30 hours a bat was seen flying at a low height in the College Square, a medium sized pond in the heart of the city, Calcutta. As the bat was flying in the usual pipistrelline manner we saw something fall from its body. When the spot was visited, a young bat was found lying on the ground. On looking up we saw the adult bat flying in the air around the young. After a few minutes it came down near to the young and tried to lift it with the help of its expanded wings, when it was caught with a view to identifying it. It was found to be a female specimen of *Pipistrellus ceylonicus chrysothrix* (Wroughton). The bat was then released at a distance of about 20 metres from the young to see its response towards the baby, if any. It flew and got stuck under the fence of the park and remained there for about six minutes. Then it started flying again. After five minutes of usual flight, it suddenly came down to the young one and flew away with it.

David (1965) states that the adult of *Pipistrellus mimus* Wroughton could possibly communicate with the young one lying at a distance. Madhavan (1971) found that the females of *Pipistrellus dormeri dormei* (Dobson) and *Pipistrellus coromandra coromandra* (Gray) make special efforts to take back the grounded young ones.

The present observation on *Pipistrellus ceylonicus chrysothrix* Wroughton supports Khajuria's view and indicate that *Pipistrellus ceylonicus chrysothrix* Wroughton behaves like other pipistrelles and takes away the grounded young.

REFERENCES

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