

Maßnahmen zur Abwehr von Prädatoren an Fledermaus-Felsquartieren in Sachsen-Anhalt. Teil 1, Fledermaus-Felsquartierkomplex der Kleinen Hufeisennase (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) bei Freyburg/Unstrut, Sachsen-Anhalt

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Measures to repel predators at rock bat roosts in Saxony-Anhalt. Part 1, Rock bat roosts complex of the lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) near Freyburg/Unstrut, Saxony-Anhalt

Abstract

At the most important hibernaculum of the lesser horseshoe bat of Saxony-Anhalt near Freyburg/Unstrut, measures were taken at the end of 2019 to repel the predators red fox, raccoon and wildcat. It was suspected that those predators could have an influence on the population of the lesser horseshoe bat. After the construction measures in the winter of 2020/21, there was a sudden increase in the population of the lesser horseshoe bat. The population increased from 776 individuals in winter 2019/20 to 1152 individuals in winter 2020/21. Special smooth sloping or angled metal sheets installed as so-called jump-off and jump-on sheets in front of the tunnel entrance successfully kept predators out of the bat quarters by slipping off at the entrance. It was recorded by wildlife cameras that raccoons can stretch to 55 cm on a frontal surface and reach around solid edges to get into the bat roost. Reaching around was successfully prevented by angled "ear plates". In the mass hibernaculum of the lesser horseshoe bat, fatalities occur when greater mouse-eared bats touch horseshoe bats by flapping their wings in the narrow rooms. It is assumed that the predators

eat the fallen horseshoe bats because those bats stay torpid on the ground for several minutes until arousal and thus represent an easy prey.

Keywords

Predators, red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), wildcat (*Felis silvestris*) at rock bat roost lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*)

Zusammenfassung

An den für Sachsen-Anhalt bedeutendsten Winterquartieren der Kleinen Hufeisennase bei Freyburg/Unstrut wurden Ende 2019 Maßnahmen zur Abwehr der Prädatoren Rotfuchs, Waschbär und Wildkatze vorgenommen. Es wurde vermutet, dass die Prädatoren Einfluss auf den Bestand der Kleinen Hufeisennase haben könnten. Nach den Baumaßnahmen im Winter 2020/21 kam es zu einer sprunghaften Bestandszunahme der Kleinen Hufeisennase. Der Bestand stieg von 776 im Winter 2019/20