

# Olympian bat

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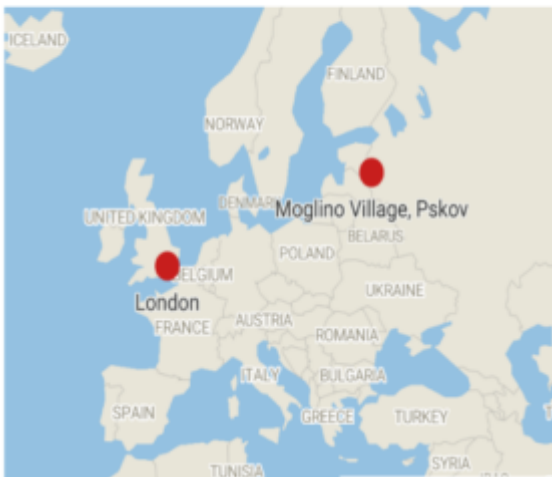
**In news-** A bat that flew 2,018 kilometers (1,254 miles) from Britain to Russia is being hailed as a mini-Olympian by scientists.

## About Olympian bat

- This bat **belongs to the Nathusius' pipistrelle** species of bats.
- **The earlier, 'Olympian' bat's record is topped** by another bat from the same species that flew from Latvia to Spain in 2019 covering a distance of 2,224 km.
- This bat typically weighed less than 10 grams.
- They are known to **migrate from summer breeding grounds in northeastern Europe to warmer areas** of the continent where they hibernate in trees in buildings.
- The **Nathusius' pipistrelle is found across Europe from the U.K. to Asia Minor.**
- But recent studies suggest that some bats are now spending the winter further north than in the past and that their numbers are increasing in the British Isles.

## The 'Olympian' bat's journey

The bat flew a distance of 2,018 km from London, UK to the Pskov region in northwestern Russia.



## Significance of the journey

- The journey is significant because it is the longest one undertaken by a bat from Britain across Europe.
- **For climate scientists the journey is a window into studying bat migration** and its connection with climate change.
- As per the Bat Conservation Trust UK, the Nathusius' pipistrelle's range expansion is **linked to climate change and future changes in climate will further impact this species.**

### **UK's Project on Bat**

- The Bat Conservation Trust launched a project called the National Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project in 2014 to improve our understanding of the ecology, current status and conservation threats for Nathusius' pipistrelles in Great Britain.
- One of the goals of this project is to determine the migratory origins of this species of bats since they might help in understanding its links to climate change.