

## **HIBERNATING NORTHERN BATS (*Eptesicus nilssonii*) AND BROWN LONG-EARED BATS (*Plecotus auritus*) IN ESTONIA – 4<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2011**

Together with Eric Thomassen and Bart Vastenhouw I visited a number of areas in Estonia in the end of March and early April 2011. We also visited some locations near Matsalu where the Field Study Group of the Dutch Mammal Society had carried out research on mammals in July 2007. Estonia was still in deep winter, a thick layer of snow laid everywhere, and even the Baltic Sea was still mainly frozen.

Bart Noort noted the fact that during our camp in 2007 an old potato cellar was found near Kloosterii. The cellar was open on both sides. One of the sides was sealed in the hope that it would be more suitable for hibernating bats. Because we were close to Kloosterii we decided to take a look in this cellar on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2011. After an extensive inspection, we found four hibernating Northern bats (*Eptesicus nilssonii*) and two Brown long-eared bats (*Plecotus auritus*) in the crevices between the stones.

We do not know if bats were also hibernating here before the cellar was sealed during our summer camp but the fact remains that we were pleasantly surprised to find hibernating bats here.

Kees Mostert,  
19<sup>th</sup> April 2011.



Photo: Kees Mostert

The exterior of the cellar.



Photo: Kees Mostert

The interior of the cellar.



Photo: Kees Mostert

One of the hibernating Northern bats (*Eptesicus nilssonii*).





Photo: Kees Mostert

Brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*) hibernating.