

## An erythristic\* long eared Bat?

(Photos by Bob Cornes)

Simon Pidgeon gave us a ring on the 15th August asking if we could pick up a brown long eared bat from the far north of the county in a village called Shelton as it would involve him in an eighty mile trip. We knew there was a bat roost in the church and so headed off. The bat was being looked after by one of the Church Wardens who had found the bat grounded on her lawn, probably after having been caught by her cat. She told us that the bats had moved from the church into the farm next door. Then she produced the bat. If you are on the internet, do check this picture out, because this female bat has the most amazing colouring. Instead of the usual dark fur, hers was a delicate honey colour, but her eyes and wings are more or less the usual colour. None of us have ever seen anything like it.



We suspect she may be erythristic. To our delight she made a good recovery and we were able to release her at the beginning of September, when she flew off strongly into the night



**\*Duh?**

An erythristic animal is one where the melanin which gives the black colour exists in an unusual form and gives the animal a reddish tinge.