



Nightwing News

The Newsletter of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network

Volume 106, Number 2

Fall/Winter 2016

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Brian Carver

As the year winds down the bat research community remains busy. Quite a few of our state bat working groups have their annual meetings near the end of the year. Plans are underway for winter cave surveys, proposals are in the works for next summer, and some data are still being analyzed. Graduate students are finishing another semester and writing theses and dissertations. State and federal biologists are reviewing reports, reminding researchers to submit their permit renewal records, and assessing conservation and research priorities.

My time as president of SBDN is also winding down. It has been my privilege to serve in this position for the last 2 years, and I look forward to 2 more years of service in the role of past-president. With the recent political cycle and the constant hyper-partisanship in our country, it is sometimes easy to get discouraged and pessimistic about our abilities to accomplish anything. Yet when I look at groups like SBDN I am encouraged. Our membership is diverse (but certainly with room for improvement still). The current executive committee includes academics, state agency personnel, and consultants. We do not currently have any students on the executive committee, but we do have several playing key roles in standing or ad hoc committees. Federal employees have not often, to my knowledge, served directly on committees for SBDN, but they are quick to contribute in meaningful ways whenever opportunities present themselves. Many of our members give generously of their time and efforts to support outreach efforts, to provide sound advice to the public, and to assist students with their research. Not every SBDN member agrees politically, but I think we make a good model of how to work together! I am proud of this organization and the work it has done to support research, education, conservation, and sharing of information. I fully expect those efforts to continue in the future and to grow.

I hope all of you are making plans to join us in Asheville in February. The annual meeting is always a highlight of my year where I learn so much about current research and challenges, and receive relevant updates for surveys and Endangered Species Act consultation. Face-to-face interactions at the meeting further strengthen our community of bat biologists. I attended my first SBDN meeting in 2000 and have missed only one meeting since that time, so this year will mark my 17th SBDN meeting. It's hard to believe I've been involved with this group for so long. I hope to make at least 25 more meetings and am excited about the future of this group.

The bats certainly face challenges none of us could have imagined at my first meeting 18 years ago, but for some species the outlook is still bright and for others we continue to be cautiously optimistic that there may be some signs of resistance to white-nose syndrome. There is still much work to be done and I hope to remain partnered with all of you on that work for the rest of my career.

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve as your president,

Brian Carver

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Executive Committee Meeting

Southeastern Bat Diversity Network Executive Committee Minutes of the Mid-Year Board Meeting November 16, 2016

Attendees

Brian Carver, President
Joy O'Keefe, Past President
Trina Morris, *President Elect – absent*

Tim Carter, Treasurer
Piper Roby, Secretary
Luke Dodd, Member at Large

Action Items

AI1: O'Keefe talk to Scott Bergeson about managing Instagram account as well as Facebook account.

AI2: Roby write up instructions for tagging SBDN on Instagram and Facebook posts for the 2017 annual meeting and email to Carter.

AI3: Morris work with Michael Whitby to edit bat blitz host package.

AI4: Carter write up proposal outlining use of SBDN funds to help with 2017 Bat Blitz and send to EC for a vote.

AI5: Carter work with Carver to update the meeting host package, e.g., include participant and host questionnaire, appendix of non-bat mammal contacts, need poster boards for poster session, etc.

AI6: Carver provide Steve Samoray with meeting and bat blitz host packages to put on website.

AI7: Carver contact the TN chapter of TWS and Darren Miller as president of TWS to get the SBDN meeting announcement out.

AI8: Carter get answers to the questionnaire from Sybill Amelon that was sent to participants after the 2015 joint meeting.

AI9: Carter create a guide for students on how to get reimbursed for travel expenses if they win the travel award.

AI10: O'Keefe send emails to state agency biologists to solicit summaries from their states for the Nightwing Newsletter.

AI11: Carter will complete the paperwork to create an acronym with the bank so that we are Southeastern Bat Diversity Network, dba: SBDN.

AI12: Carver send out an email about revisiting and updating the SBDN bat poster, as well as getting pricing information from TWRA.

AI13: O'Keefe get pricing for printing the SBDN bat poster.

AI14: Get a photo of the Executive Committee at the annual meeting (everybody brush their hair that day)

Call to Order: 4:05PM CST, President Carver

General Discussion

November 2015 Executive Committee meeting action items:

- Done. Dodd and O'Keefe wrote descriptive text to match the sample abstract in the instructions for writing abstracts. Clearly stated that an award could only be won once per degree.
- Done. There is a recurring annual payment set up for the SBDN website, and the Rafbat website domain has lapsed, so it is no more.
- Done. Scott Bergeson and Kristi Confortin highlight student research on our Facebook page with CRAB posts (Current Research About Bats) and have enough for the next several months. Discussion about what the Facebook page should be and it was decided that only periodic important information should be posted, rather than frequent tidbits. There are plenty of pages like that out there already and people may pay more attention to SBDN posts if they are less frequent but important/relevant. Discussion about Instagram account. Hasn't had much activity. **AI1:** O'Keefe talk to Scott Bergeson about managing Instagram account as well as Facebook account. It's a lot to ask and ok if he doesn't want to. Can just remind people on the Facebook page to tag SBDN in their Instagram bat posts. **AI2:** Roby write up instructions for tagging SBDN on Instagram and Facebook posts for the 2017 annual meeting and email to Carter.

- Not done. **A13:** Morris work with Michael Whitby to edit bat blitz host package. **A14:** Carter write up proposal outlining use of SBDN funds to help with 2017 Bat Blitz and send to EC for a vote.
- Not done. **A15:** Carter work with Carver to update the meeting host package, e.g., include participant and host questionnaire, appendix of non-bat mammal contacts, need poster boards for poster session, etc.
- Not done. **A16:** Carver provide Steve Samoray with meeting and bat blitz host packages to put on website.
- Done. Member at Large will update the names of non-bat people coming to the annual meeting. This list will be maintained and included it in the host package each year for them to continue to invite and encourage non-bat mammalogists to attend and present at the meeting.
- Done. An announcement was sent out to mammalogists last year, but not this year. Increase membership by Facebook traffic maybe. Perhaps the Membership Committee could add some more members to spread out the work load? **A17:** Carver contact the TN chapter of TWS and Darren Miller as president of TWS to get the SBDN meeting announcement out.
- Done. There is still room for improvement on the website design but it is way better than it was.
- Not done. **A18:** Carter get answers to the questionnaire from Sybill Amelon that was sent to participants after the 2015 joint meeting.
- Done. Questionnaire about 2016 meeting went out. Will use it as a template for following years.
- Not done, but person who won last year didn't have any problem getting reimbursed. **A19:** Carter create a guide for students on how to get reimbursed for travel expenses if they win the travel award.
- Done. Joint meeting in 2018 will be in Roanoke, VA with NEBWG and MWBWG and NE taking the lead.
- Not done but decided that since there is no map on the SBDN website, we didn't need to formally remove WV and OK. Can take out of Nightwing Newsletter. Also, solicit state summaries from state biologists. Can still have submissions from researchers or consultants, but having a summary of what is going on in each state takes place of previous practice of having state biologists stand up and give an oral account at the annual meeting. **A110:** O'Keefe send emails to state agency biologists to solicit summaries from their states for the Nightwing Newsletter.
- Done. The Secretary will send the updated membership list to the Membership Committee chair after receiving all paid memberships at the conclusion of each annual meeting.
- Not done, but bank has relaxed some and stopped harassing Carter. **A111:** Carter will complete the paperwork with the bank to create an acronym so that we are Southeastern Bat Diversity Network, dba: SBDN.
- Not done. **A112:** Carver send out an email about revisiting and updating the SBDN bat poster, as well as getting pricing information from TWRA. **A113:** O'Keefe get pricing for printing the SBDN bat poster.

New Business:

Treasurer's Report

Nothing has happened with the surplus Colloquium meeting money and that will be tabled until the annual meeting in February 2017. There is about \$70,000 in the meeting funds and there will be more by the 2017 meeting. If the eastern bat poster was an SBDN poster, we could use some funds to produce it, but since it is a general poster not necessarily sponsored by SBDN, will need to get other funds/sponsors. Could reduce the registration fee, especially for students, since we have a surplus in the general fund. Even though our registration fee is really low compared to most meetings, the meeting is sometimes in areas with expensive hotels, so need to keep that in mind, too.

The ~\$15,000 left over from the last bat blitz will roll over into the surplus funds and will possibly use a portion of these funds for the 2017 bat blitz at Mammoth Cave National Park.

Funds for the Kentucky Bat Working Group are now held by SBDN.

Other new business

The 2017 meeting will be the first major "changing of the guard" in terms of switching out executive committee members and we need to think about the transition, especially with the Treasurer and Secretary positions. There will need to be a minimum of a 2-month transition for the Treasurer. Need to start thinking about nominating people for the next President in 2018. **A114:** Get a photo of the Executive Committee at the annual meeting (everybody brush their hair that day)

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 CST.

Executive Committee Contact Information

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BAT BLITZ COMMITTEE

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AWARDS COMMITTEE

Steven Burnett (Chair)	Clayton College & State University	StephenBurnett@mail.clayton.edu
Nikki Castleberry	Georgia Museum of Natural History	neotoma@uga.edu
Chris Comer	Stephen F. Austin State University	comerce@sfasu.edu
Lisa Gatens	NC Museum of Natural Sciences	lisa.gatens@naturalsciences.org

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chris Comer (co-chair)	Stephen F. Austin State University	comerce@sfasu.edu
Scott Bergeson (co-chair)	Indiana State University	sbergeson@gmail.com
Steve Thomas	Mammoth Cave National Park	steve_thomas@nps.gov
Blake Sasse	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission	dbasse@agfc.state.ar.us

WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME COMMITTEE

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Additional Committee Reports

Membership Committee

The membership committee is working on identifying barriers to SBDN Meeting and Mammal Colloquium attendance by southeastern United States mammalogists/bat biologists. We also want to identify the characteristics of membership that current/past members find appealing. With this information, we hope to start increasing SBDN membership and annual meeting attendance.

We are currently collaborating with annual meeting hosts (and others) to promote attendance to the annual mammal colloquium by non-bat mammalogists, as attendance by this demographic has been lacking.

If you have ideas on how to promote membership/attendance or want to help out with the membership committee, don't hesitate to contact us (smborgeson@gmail.com).

Hopefully we can start cajoling more great people into joining our SBDN family!

White-nose Syndrome Committee

The WNS committee is looking for new membership. If interested, please email the committee chair (luke.dodd@eku.edu), or contact committee members at the upcoming SBDN meeting.

Website Committee

The SBDN website has been updated with a slightly new look and improved functionality on mobile devices. We are working to better integrate registration for events such as blitzes and meetings into the website and have begun facilitating registration and t-shirt sales for state working groups. We continue to work with other committees to keep all pages as up to date as possible and also welcome any suggestions from any SBDN members.

State Updates

Alabama

Talladega National Forest

Kailtyn Rountree, University of West Georgia

This past summer, Kailtyn Rountree (University of West Georgia), Dr. Andrew Edelman (University of West Georgia), Dr. Joseph Johnson (Ohio University), Jonathan Stober (Talladega National Forest), and our amazing technicians, Zachariah Bell, Hannah Gunter, Mattea Lewis, and Cali Wilson worked tirelessly to capture and track northern *Myotis* (*Myotis septentrionalis*) and Indiana *Myotis* (*M. sodalis*) at the Talladega National Forest in northeastern Alabama.

Our objective was to examine roost site selection and foraging patterns of these two declining species in response to fire-based restoration of longleaf pine forests. We tracked each radio-tagged individual daily to determine day roosts and foraging movements. The SDBN members also provided valuable assistance with capturing endangered bats during the Southeastern Bat Blitz in July. Our preliminary results suggest these endangered bats roosted and foraged in forests with frequent prescribed fire more than expected by availability. Indiana *Myotis* roosted mainly in large pine snags, whereas northern *Myotis* roosted in a wide range of living and dead trees.

Other highlights of the summer include the discovery of an extra limit maternity colony of southeastern *Myotis* (*M. austroriparius*) and the successful tracking of a gray *Myotis* (*M. grisescens*) from its capture site to cave roost (>18 km away). We will continue this research through the summer of 2017 to obtain more data on roost selection and foraging of these endangered bats.



Top: Bat crew posing with Smokey the Bear at Alabama Bat Festival; Dr. Andrew Edelman; Jonathan Stober.

Bottom: Dr. Joseph Johnson; Kaitlyn Rountree; Female gray *Myotis* tracked over 18 km from capture site to roost



Updates for Arkansas

Blake Sasse, AR Game and Fish Commission

During the summer of 2016 the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission sponsored two major mist netting surveys. One, conducted by Mitigation Surveying Services, was at the Dave Donaldson Black River Wildlife Management Area in northeast Arkansas. This area is at the beginning of a major multi-year habitat restoration project and is home to Arkansas' only confirmed Indiana bat maternity colony, however none were captured this summer. The other survey, by Deep South Eco Group, focused on short-term surveys on a number of Wildlife Management Areas and Natural Areas that haven't previously been surveyed for bats. Mitigation Surveying Services continued contracted summer cave surveys for gray bats and Ozark big-eared bats in the Ozarks. Blake Sasse, the Commission's Nongame Mammal Program Leader, focused summer netting on the Hope Upland WMA in southwestern Arkansas and continued his work studying small-footed bats using crevices in concrete guardrails on bridges as roost sites.

Arkansas State University continued routine Indiana bat mist netting on the Ozark National Forest and began a fall/winter Rafinesque's big-eared bat radiotelemetry project.

On 3 November 2016, 22 bat biologists and land managers from Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma held an informal meeting at Devil's Den State Park in Winslow, Arkansas to discuss the conservation of the Ozark big-eared bat. Participants discussed current research and management priorities for this subspecies, which only has about 1,500 individuals remaining in Arkansas and Oklahoma. The last confirmed sighting in Missouri was in the 1970s and it has been considered extirpated from the state since 1999, but the Missouri Department of Conservation will be launching another series of surveys to attempt to locate occupied sites in the lower tier of counties.



University of Georgia

John Grider

University of Georgia student John Grider has completed his second year of field research looking into the distribution and roosting habitat of northern long-eared bats (*Myotis septentrionalis*) in north Georgia. Efforts in the summer of 2016 resulted in the sampling of 29 new sites in the Chattahoochee National Forest and the capture of 6 northern long-eared bats. Radio telemetry on these individuals led to the discovery of 16 diurnal roosts. There is one remaining year of field work on this project that will include sampling sites where northern long-eared bats were previously captured and radio telemetry to diurnal roosts.

Georgia DNR

Katrina Morris

Anabat Routes

Anabat Routes were completed again this season by volunteers across the state (georgiawildlife.com/Anabat Project). Most of the routes across the state were completed at least once during the 2016 season. Analysis is just beginning from the 2016 season but results from 2014 and 2015 are available on the website listed above.

NABat

Georgia began the initial NABat sampling during the summer of 2016. Routes and stationary units were set up on one Wildlife Management Area and two National Parks properties that were a high priority for sampling. Efforts will continue to expand the numbers of cells sampled over the next several years.



Jackie Beck preparing for our first NABat driving transect.

National Park Service Project

During the summer, every UGA bat intern spent 10 days at the Ocmulgee National Monument with Ratty Tuck in search of Rafinesque's Big-eared bats. Anabat units were set up throughout the park, and interns ran Anabat routes through the park. Occasional netting nights were set up throughout the summer at Ocmulgee.

Roost Monitoring

Volunteers have been recruited from around the state to help monitor summer bat roosts. Volunteers who know of bat roosts in their home, personal bat boxes, bridges, mines, barns, or other structures, or in nearby trees or caves are asked count bats as they emerge and to fill out a counting form. More information on this citizen science project can be found here: georgiawildlife.com/

Bat-Roost-Monitoring. We greatly appreciate all the work our volunteers do to help support bat conservation in Georgia!

Bats in Bridges

Biologists continue to survey the bridges where bat species inhabit especially those that are scheduled for repairs. Biologists continue to monitor bridges and work with DOT to develop ideas on when and how exclusion of bats should be performed. Volunteers are asked to fill out bridge survey forms. To submit a bridge survey please visit: <https://n3mgq.enketo.kobotoolbox.org/webform>

TAG Fall Cave-In

We continue to prioritize education efforts related to WNS in GA. We attended the Fall TAG Cave-In again this October. GA DNR and the US Fish and Wildlife Service had a booth at the event and passed out information about WNS and decontamination protocols. We also had crafts for kids related to bats and bat conservation. The booth always attracts attention and is an important way for us to spread the most currently knowledge about bats and WNS in the southeast.





Georgia DNR...continued

Katrina Morris

White-Nose Syndrome Winter Monitoring and Surveillance

Biologists in Georgia are unable to visit the large number of caves with small numbers of bats in the state. We continue to ask for caver volunteers from around the state to help with White-nose Syndrome Winter Monitoring and Surveillance. Volunteers who are visiting caves are asked to submit a survey form regarding the data collected from the caves even if bats are not present. If bats are present and volunteer as a swab kit, volunteers are asked to send in all samples with shipping paid by DNR. Volunteers are already visiting caves and collecting swab samples. More information can be found: georgiawildlife.org/node/2403/. We greatly appreciate all the work our volunteers do to help support bat conservation in Georgia!



Biologists continue to survey the hibernacula these imperiled bat species inhabit and have noted drastic declines in most sites. This year, total bat numbers are down 92% from previous winter counts. Georgia secured a WNS Grant to continue work in the state for winter 2017, and will continue visiting cave sites checking for signs of WNS this winter.

Goodbye to Jackie and Ratty!!

After the summer ended, Trina had to say goodbye to two very important people in the Georgia bat work. Jackie Beck worked with Trina for 4.5 years and over that time became an invaluable member of the bat community in Georgia. She has been a strong leader, dependable sidekick, incredibly hard worker and an amazing friend. We are so proud of her for all she has accomplished and can't wait to see what her future holds. Ratty Tuck was part of the team for 2.5 years. She joined us just after college and we watched her change and learn and gain confidence and valuable skills. She grew into a very passionate team member and began developing leadership skills that she will take into her future endeavors. We will miss her amazing work ethic, humor, dance moves and friendship more than she knows. We hope the next year brings more growth and discovery so she can move into life as a force in the conservation world.



Thanks to Jackie and Ratty for everything they have accomplished over the years. We will never be the same without you!

GA Bat Working Group

gabats.org

Bat Blitz 2016

The 3rd annual Georgia Bat Working Group Bat Blitz, held May 12–14th at Cloudland Canyon State Park, was a great success! Many participants helped to sample 19 different sites over three nights. We caught 119 bats from eight species: *Eptesicus fuscus*, *Lasiurus borealis*, *L. seminolus*, *Lasionycteris noctivagans*, *Myotis grisescens*, *M. leibii*, *Nycticeius humeralis*, and *Perimyotis subflavus*. Dottie Brown won the ultimate bragging rights of most bats captured with 40 bats! Pete Pattavina won the Limp Net award with least bats captured with 12 bats. Jackie Beck won most species captured with seven species (all species listed above except *L. seminolus*).

Thanks to everyone who made this blitz a huge success!



Dottie Brown crushing the competition and the former king of Bat Blitz, Pete Pattavina. Jackie Beck accepting her award for Most Species Captured.

Mississippi

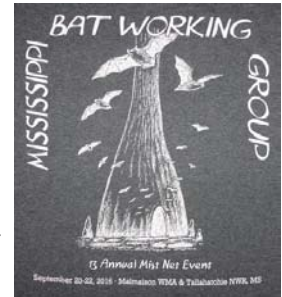
Mississippi Bat Working Group Becky Rosamond

2016 Mist Net Event

The Mississippi Bat Working Group (MBWG) held a successful 13th Annual Mist Net Event on September 20-22. Twenty-three biologists, teachers, and other bat enthusiasts netted at Malmaison Wildlife Management Area and Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge. A total of 32 bats representing three species (*Lasiurus borealis*, *Nycticeius humeralis*, and *Myotis austroriparius*) were netted over the course of the event.



Participants captured 16 bats at Malmaison WMA the first night, including evening bats, southeastern *Myotis*, and red bats. The second night was an exciting one for one team, capturing 14 southeastern *Myotis* and one evening bat along a tupelo brake on Tallahatchie NWR. The other groups netted two southeastern *Myotis* that night. During the day, kayaks and canoes were made available for paddling among the cypress on Long Branch at the refuge. The MBWG would like to thank all who participated for making it a successful event, especially founding member Chester Martin, who provided artwork for the event t-shirt and sponsorship.



14th Annual Meeting

The MBWG met for their 14th Annual Meeting at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, Mississippi on February 4. The meeting was well attended, with 45 participants and discussion of bat issues and research affecting the state. A business meeting followed, including updates on board positions, website updates, and discussion of the 2016 mist net event. Shea Staten was presented with the Chester O. Martin award.

Outreach and Education

Members of the group presented educational programs and invited talks throughout the state at schools, festivals and to various civic organizations, reaching over 1,000 individuals across the state. Additionally, the MBWG staffed booths at Nature Fest (Jackson), Trace Wildlife Festival (Tupelo), the Wildlife Outdoor Learning Festival (Starkville), and Park after Dark (Jackson). Highlights from 2016 include:

- Chester Martin, Kathy Shelton, and Nicole Hodges made guest appearances on the Mississippi Public Radio Program "Creature Comforts," speaking about bats.
- Becky and Natalie Rosamond, Deb Waz, Bill and Sherry Latham and Jackie Kerr conducted a mist net demonstration for approximately 40 scouts and their families as part of the Natchez Trace Festival. Chester Martin conducted a mist net demonstration for a group of Boy and Girl Scouts in Vicksburg.
- Chester Martin, Scott Veum, and Kathy Shelton presented research at professional meetings including the MS Chapter of The Wildlife Society, SBDN, North American Society for Bat Research, and Southeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.



Bracken Cave Visit

Working Group founder Chester Martin was an invited attendee at the celebration of the Galo property acquisition, which added 3,500 acres to the protection of Bracken Cave. Bracken Cave, (~20 miles northeast of San Antonio, TX) supports the largest maternity colony of bats in the world (20 million Brazilian free-tailed bats). Chester was recognized for his previous research at the cave.

Graduate Student Assistance

Members of the group assisted Tennessee Tech graduate student, Jessi Vannatta West, by collecting tissue samples from Rafinesque's big-eared bats and southeastern *myotis* from several locations in north Mississippi and southwest Mississippi. Jessi is investigating the range-wide population genetic structure of these species.

Check out MBWG's new website, msbats.org!

The site includes event and accomplishments updates, a photo gallery, and information on bats of Mississippi. A teacher resource section is under development. It offers members online event registration, membership registration, and donations.



Harp trapping a southeastern *Myotis* roost and collecting tissue samples.



Mark Twain National Forest

Megan York-Harris

This year the Mark Twain National Forest partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to monitor the Indiana bat maternity colony in Wayne County, Missouri. A new maternity tree was found. This is a 26 inch dead cottonwood. Exit counts revealed a maximum of 155 bats using the tree on June 30. This colony has shown high site fidelity to the area since its discovery in 2003. It appears the summer population of Indiana bats in southeast Missouri remains relatively stable.

The Mark Twain National Forest also monitored Northern long-eared bats on the Poplar Bluff Ranger District in the summer of 2016. Capture rates of this species was very low. In 11 nights of trapping, two individuals were captured, and wings looked clean on both. These were located in different areas, approximately six miles apart. Both were transmittered, but only one was tracked successfully. This lactating female used two trees. One was a 7" dead, subcanopy post oak approximately 40 feet tall. This was situated in a high basal area forest. A maximum of 10 bats used the tree. This area was burned March 25, 2015. No timber harvest or other timber management activities have been conducted in that stand. The other tree is a 16.7" black oak snag about 30 feet tall in an area that was logged in 2012, received understory treatments, and was also burned in March of 2015. The tree is on the edge of the harvested stand. There is approximately 30 residual basal area in that stand. Nine bats were counted exiting the tree, but simultaneous exit counts revealed a maximum of 15 bats using the two trees the same night. Northern long-eared bat maternity colonies in Missouri are likely getting smaller due to white-nose syndrome.

Overall, bat capture rates are significantly down compared to past years. The Northern long-eared bat was once one of the most commonly captured bats in this area, but that is no longer the case. We will continue to monitor this species and others as white-nose syndrome grips the state of Missouri.



Eastern North Carolina

Mary Frazer, Three Oaks Engineering

The potential presence of the northern long-eared bat (MYSE) in the eastern half of North Carolina has been a mystery for years. The mystery has taken on added importance since MYSE were proposed as a federally-listed species. Prior to WNS, MYSE used to be common in the mountains of NC, but little was known about the species in the Piedmont or coastal plain, aside from a handful of old or obscure records (which included a couple MYSE brought in to rabies labs). Recent field work has shed more light on the species.



In 2007 and 2012, students at UNC-Greensboro (Adam Morris and Jack Grider) captured several MYSE at two properties in the NC coastal plain, including juveniles. In 2013 and 2014, the US Navy (Michael Wright) captured adult and juvenile MYSE at the North Carolina-Virginia border at a coastal plain naval facility. Within the last year, much more mist-netting has been conducted in the eastern half of NC. Much of the work has been conducted with the intent to clarify the range of MYSE, including work funded by the NC Department of Transportation. Dottie Brown, Ecological Solutions, captured and tracked coastal plain MYSE in the late fall and winter of 2015-2016. In 2016, Michael Morse of the US Fish and Wildlife Service captured MYSE at two wildlife refuges in May, Katherine Caldwell of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission captured a male in late May, Mary Frazer of Three Oaks Engineering captured a juvenile male in June, and Heather Wallace of Calyx captured a male in July. Captures in the last decade add MYSE eight county records to the state; all within the coastal plain.

While MYSE do not seem to be numerous in eastern NC (Three Oaks only captured one MYSE out of 195 bats), their presence is encouraging in the face of WNS. Caves and mines suitable for hibernating are essentially non-existent in eastern NC. MYSE captures in winter and telemetry conducted in late fall suggest they may be using hollow trees for winter roosting/hibernating. Captures of juveniles indicate they are breeding in summer. Mysteries remain, however. No MYSE have been captured yet in the counties with old/obscure records. All captures have been in or near swamps or similar wet habitat, but it's not known if this is because swamps are preferred habitat, or because much of the forested habitat in eastern NC is wet. We don't know if the MYSE consist of scattered populations or if they're contiguous. Hopefully further work will solve more of the MYSE mysteries.

Submitted with assistance from: M. Morse and G. Jordan, K. Caldwell, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, D. Brown, H. Wallace, M. Kalcounis-Ruppell, C. Gregory, E. Corey, L. Gatens

North Carolina

Fort Bragg

Janice Patten, Fort Bragg Wildlife Biologist

We have continued to use multiple survey techniques to collect information about the bats found on Fort Bragg. We use Sonabat to record echolocation calls along 4 transects. Some transects were being monitored in 2004-2007 and they have been monitored each year since 2010. This work was conducted April-Sept but this year we decided to only run these routes in June. In August, we set out stationary Anabat detectors at 27 locations. These detectors were each set out for 1 night. This data has been collected since 2009. In June, a mist net survey was conducted over the course of 8 nights. As part of Eric Britzke and Carl Herzog's large scale acoustic survey, we drove a 30 mile transect on 2 nights to collect mobile Anabat data in June and July. We have decided to try to run this transect every month. We were able to conduct the work in April-September but poor road conditions created by heavy rains have prevented us from running the transect in October-December. Part of the NABat Survey was conducted on Fort Bragg for the 2nd year in a row. We continue to collect data from the 2 permanent Anabat stations set up October 2015.

Discovery of Gray Bats Roosting in Bridges

Katherine Caldwell, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) biologists recently discovered gray bats (*Myotis grisescens*) roosting in bridges in western NC. Though gray bats have been captured in mist net surveys in North Carolina, this species was not known to roost in the state. After initially finding gray bats roosting in a bridge in Buncombe County, NCWRC biologists radio-tagged two gray bats and tracked them to identify foraging locations and additional roost sites. The bats were tracked for 12 days, during which time both bats foraged over streams 5.2 km to 6.8 km from the bridge and roosted in the bridge every day. Subsequent bridge surveys yielded an additional six bridges with roosting gray bats in Madison and Yancey Counties. This exciting find has prompted future work aimed at identifying additional information on the occurrence and distribution of gray bats in North Carolina.



L to R: Gray bat captured from a bat roost in a Buncombe County bridge; Gray bats roosting in the expansion joint of a bridge; Wildlife Diversity Biologist, Katherine Caldwell, tracking a radio-tagged gray bat; Wildlife Diversity Technician, Joey Weber, tracking a radio-tagged gray bat.

North Carolina

North Carolina Bat Working Group Bat Blitz

Lisa Gatens, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences

During the last week in September, the NC Bat Working Group (NCBWG) sponsored a bat blitz in the Bay Lakes region of southeastern NC, with beautiful Singletary Lake State Park as our home base. Our main partners in this endeavor were NC State Parks (NCDPR) and NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). The primary organizers, scouts, planners were Ed Corey, Inventory Biologist with NCDPR, Brandon Sherrill, Mammalogist with NCWRC, Lisa Gatens, Curator of Mammals with NC Museum of Natural Sciences and Co-chair of NCBWG. Survey sites were chosen on NC DPR, NC State Forest, and NCWRC properties. We had a decent-sized group of eager bat enthusiasts to conduct our first large-scale bat blitz*. And, despite the weather being less than co-operative, we still had capture success.

The Bay Lakes region lies within the Coastal Plain physiographic province which is characterized by sandy soils, little topographic relief, and tremendous biodiversity. The Coastal Plain hosts ancient bottomland hardwood forests, pine savannas, dense pocosins, and the Carolina bays. The mysterious bays are characteristically oriented northwest to southeast shallow ovals. Some, like our base camp at Singletary Lake State Park, are still water-filled lakes. The boggy, vegetation filled bays are scraggly pocosins.

Beautiful Singletary Lake; The species with the highest captures (18 MY-AU); Your basic net site pig; creative practices in drying a LOT of gear after decon and heavy rains. The wonderful dining hall was very accommodating for this purpose.



Around 30 individuals from four states (NC, KY, VA, and GA) representing 12 State and Federal Government agencies and private companies participated in this blitz. On Monday, the first night of the blitz, a welcoming cookout was offered. Netting was scheduled to take place on the following three nights. As teams arrived at their sites on Tuesday and began setting nets, big storms rolled in which cancelled all netting activity for the rest of that night. Though widespread severe storms caused devastating flooding in areas just to the north of where we were working, Wednesday night was productive for all five teams. Thirty-one bats, and four species were captured including Southeastern *Myotis* (*Myotis austroriparius*), Eastern Red Bat (*Lasiurus borealis*), Seminole Bat (*L. seminolus*), and Evening Bat (*Nycticeius humeralis*). With heavy rain for almost twelve straight hours on Thursday, for much of the day it didn't seem that netting was likely. The rain ended at around 6:00 p.m., and once it was determined that access was not flooded, teams dispersed to their appointed sites. Though captures only totaled seven on Thursday, there were six species captured including Southeastern *Myotis* (*M. austroriparius*), Eastern Red Bat (*L. borealis*), Seminole Bat (*L. seminolus*), Evening Bat (*N. humeralis*), Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), and Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat (*Corynorhinus rafinesquii*). In all, 38 individuals of seven species were captured.

Support for the Bay Lakes Bat Blitz was provided by State Parks, the NC Bat Working Group, Deb Creech (NC Museum of Natural Sciences), The Clark Family Foundation, Larry's Beans, and Lonerider Brewery.

*The NCBWG has hosted survey events on a smaller scale and with limited participation. This was the first blitz open to all NCBWG members and to cover multiple, wide-spread sites.

Oklahoma

Activities and Events from Oklahoma

Melynda Hickman, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

Hibernating Bat Counts and Winter Surveillance for Pd Continues in Western Oklahoma

For more than 2 decades staff and students from the University of Central Oklahoma, Central Oklahoma Grotto members, staff at Alabaster Caverns State Park and biologists with the OK Department of Wildlife Conservation have been counting “bat ears and dividing by 2” to monitor hibernating bat populations in 9 gypsum caves in western Oklahoma. Over the last 4 years they have included surveillance for Pd through swabbing *Myotis velifer*. Winter surveillance for Pd will continue this winter.



Staff and students from the University of Central Oklahoma and the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma conduct hibernating bat count and Pd surveillance at Washita Cave, Oklahoma.

Oklahoma Bat Wing-Ding

The “Bat Wing-Ding” happens the second weekend of April at Alabaster Caverns State Park near the town of Freedom in western Oklahoma. It is two days full of games, exhibits, programs and discussions based on those small flying mammals that are so mysterious to us all. Visitors get to see live bats, use their own observation skills to spot “plastic” bats in their daytime roosts, accompany bat professionals to the cavern entrance to detect bats as they emerge from Alabaster Caverns’ proper, play games and do puzzles that relate back to bat facts and view Alabaster Caverns’ “Bats...Bats...Bats; Oklahoma’s Nightlife” traveling exhibit. All activities related to the “Wing-Ding” are free to the public.

The fourth annual Bat Wing Ding was held April 8 & 9, 2016. It saw over 250 people in attendance. Staff and volunteers from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Oklahoma Bat Coordinating Team, Oklahoma Wildlife and Prairie Heritage Alliance, Selman Bat Flight Volunteers and the Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department all helped educate both young and old alike about our wonderful little bats.



South Carolina

Surveys, Projects and Events in SC

Jennifer Kindel, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

2015–2016 Hibernacula Counts

SCDNR completed 19 hibernacula counts this past winter: 10 mines in Oconee Co. (a WNS-positive County), 2 Greenville Co. rock shelters, 1 Union Co. mine, 4 rock shelters in Lancaster Co., and 1 cave in Pickens Co. Three sites were swabbed for WNS testing, and only 1 old mine and a *Perimyotis subflavus* within it, tested positive for Pd. This was noteworthy because though Oconee Co. is already considered WNS positive, the site was less than two miles away from the WNS negative Anderson Co. In the Pickens Co. cave, the *Myotis* group was down over 93% and *Perimyotis subflavus* were down over 20%. Fungus was obvious on a *Myotis septentrionalis* and numerous *Perimyotis subflavus* there. We will be surveying another significant cave this coming winter, the Middle Tunnel at Stumphouse Mountain Heritage Preserve, and at least 8 other sites including a few promising new sites in Calhoun, Cherokee, and Laurens counties.



Northern Long-eared Bat Project

SCDNR conducted its first summer netting effort focused on the capture of *M. septentrionalis* from mid-May through early August at 6 sites in the Piedmont and Blue Ridge regions. A total of 267 nets were deployed across 79 net sites over 39 nights. This resulted in the capture of 108 individuals of the following eight species: *Eptesicus fuscus*, *Lasionycteris noctivagans*, *Lasiurus borealis*, *L. seminolus*, *Myotis leibii*, *M. lucifugus*, *Nycticeius humeralis*, and *Perimyotis subflavus*. The majority of the individuals were *Eptesicus fuscus* and *L. borealis*, but no *M. septentrionalis* were captured. However, the effort did result in a new *M. lucifugus* county record for Laurens County. The only other *Myotis* captured were *M. leibii* adults and young (7 total) in Greenville Co. Of the eight total *P. subflavus* captured, six were from the Piedmont region.

Acoustic recordings were taken opportunistically at each site, totaling 35 points. Data was run through BCID to help identify *Myotis* species, and manual vetting was conducted by Eco-Tech Inc., Ecological Solutions, Dr. Susan Loeb, and Ben Neece. Results suggest possible *M. septentrionalis* are still at Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve, even though they may not have been present in large enough numbers for capture. However, confirmation of *M. septentrionalis* over *M. leibii* is not possible to discern due to extreme similarity in call sequences.

This project utilized contractual field assistance for 4 nights from Eco-Tech Inc., and depended heavily on volunteer and intern assistance. Ten volunteers mostly from the SC Master Naturalist Program contributed 308 hours, and 200 hours came from interns Cora Grant and Daniel Belken at Clemson University.



As an extension of this project, SCDNR also requested Ecological Solutions to complete mist net and acoustic surveys to assess bat species presence and activity within the Wee Tee State Forest. During 2 nights in September, 29 nets were deployed over 9 sites, but no bats were captured. Acoustic recordings were taken at 3 different locations over that same period, and calls examined manually resulted in the identification of *Corynorhinus rafinesquii*, *P. subflavus*, and *M. austroriparius*. Longer term surveys during different seasons are needed in this high quality bat habitat to better assess bat species presence.

South Carolina

Surveys, Projects and Events in SC...continued

Jennifer Kindel, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

1st Annual Halloween Emergence Count

During Bat Week, SCDNR and Sunrift Adventures Inc. teamed up for this public event to count bats emerging from seven bat boxes attached to Sunrift's old barn. Jon Gillespie, a bike tech at Sunrift Adventures, has been the builder and caretaker of these boxes for 20 years. After a bat talk with Jon and Jen Kindel (SCDNR), people were split into groups for each bat box, and a total of **608 bats** were counted! The species in these boxes have been known to be *Eptesicus fuscus* and *Tadarida brasiliensis*. Approximately 45 people attended of varying ages, were excited to see the bats emerge, and asked questions about bats, white-nose syndrome, rabies, bat houses, and how they can help. Many expressed great interest in attending the event again next year.



L to R: Jon Gillespie and Jen Kindel giving a bat talk; These boxes held 374 bats (182 in one alone!); Jon setting up for the event; The kids really loved talking about bats.

Carolina Regional Bat Acoustic Program

The Carolina Regional Bat Acoustic Program continued its second year of implementing the North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat) in South Carolina. Ben Neece, the Clemson University M.S. student overseeing South Carolina's implementation, continued to organize the sampling efforts (see myweb.clemson.edu/~bneece/map.php). This summer two Clemson University student interns employed by SCDNR assisted with sampling some of the designated cells along with volunteers and agency partners. Although Ben conducted most of the sampling, 13 SCDNR staff or employees also assisted with housing, mobile sampling, or stationary sampling sites. Other participants included Carolinas Sandhills NWR, Savannah NWR, Cape Romain NWR, 12 private landowners, 2 citizen volunteers, 4 US Forest Service and 2 SC Forestry Commission staff, and individuals from SC Parks, Recreation and Tourism, US Army Corps of Engineers and some local governments. From May-July this year, 38 high-priority cells were sampled over 165 sampling nights. Of those, 17 had both mobile and stationary surveys, 13 had mobile samples only, and 8 had stationary samples only.

Ben Neece used 2015 acoustic data to compare detection probabilities between mobile and stationary surveys, and examined the effects of classification method on detection and occupancy models. He reported more species detected through stationary than mobile sampling, and a significantly higher probability of detecting southeastern bats at stationary sites than on mobile transects. Survey duration and survey method were most important in detection of both tri-colored and southeastern bats. He also compared filtered calls run through Echoclass 3.1 and Kaleidoscope 3.1.5 to manual vetting, and discovered Echoclass produced more false-positives of southeastern bats than Kaleidoscope, and also produced slightly more false negatives than Kaleidoscope. Kaleidoscope produced more false positives for tri-colored bats than Echoclass, but had no false negatives for tri-colored bats. Overall, it is clear manual vetting of call identifications is necessary regardless of call classification program.



Ben Neece conducting acoustic sampling.

South Carolina

Palmetto Bluff

Jason Robinson, Biological Systems Consultants, Inc.

The Palmetto Bluff Conservancy received a State Wildlife Grant in the spring of 2016 for a year-long project examining roost selection and fidelity of Northern yellow bats. Palmetto Bluff is a coastal community located near the town of Bluffton in South Carolina. (The Conservancy hosted the 2015 SBDN Bat Blitz and wanted to continue its work on understanding the composition and behavior of the local bat population.) Mary Socci, of the Palmetto Bluff Conservancy, has been responsible for organizing the research activities and the fall netting has been conducted by Jason Robinson and Samuel Freeze, with some additional help from Brittany Hall.

Although the project is still in its early stages, we've had the opportunity to mist net both before and after a major hurricane and we have identified significant seasonal shifts in species density. This fall we've also tracked a male Southeastern *Myotis* to a dedicated roost tree (sweet gum) and we've followed a Northern yellow bat to three different roosts: dead fronds in two different sabal palms and a large live oak covered with Spanish moss. During early November, two Northern Long-Eared bats were also captured on Palmetto Bluff, which are not only surprising new records for Beaufort County, but are also approximately 200 miles from the known populations in Northwestern South Carolina. There have been other interesting encounters on the Bluff as well, including a bobcat snacking on a flying squirrel entangled in a mist-net. We hope to have more exciting discoveries to share in the next edition of the newsletter!



Tennessee

Tennessee Technological University

Jessi West, Tennessee Technological University

Jessi West's (PhD student under advisement of Dr. Brian Carver) dissertation research focuses on the range-wide population genetic structure of *Corynorhinus rafinesquii* (Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat) and *Myotis austroriparius* (Southeastern Myotis). Population genetic structure can provide pertinent and essential information for the conservation and management of rare species, such as *C. rafinesquii* and *M. austroriparius*. Both species can be found in bottomland hardwood forests, but the decline of these forested habitats has had a negative impact on their persistence. As urbanization, fragmentation, and habitat loss continue, it is of the utmost importance to understand the population genetic structure and population connectivity of these two species in order to properly manage and conserve their populations. In 2016, Jessi collected more than 370 tissue samples from both bat species across the southeastern United States thanks to the collaborative efforts of many others. She will collect tissue samples again in 2017. Very few questions have been answered on the population genetic structure and gene flow in *C. rafinesquii* and *M. austroriparius*, yet this information is crucial for proper management and protection of these species of concern. Jessi hopes that each state will be able to use the gathered information to infer management protocols and conservation actions specific to their state.



L to R top: Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat from an abandoned house in Sparta, Tennessee; Jessi holding a Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat (from the Wondering Woods bat tower near Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky); Jessi holding a Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat from a shed in Natchez, Mississippi; Southeastern Myotis from a cistern in Natchez, Mississippi. Bottom: A cluster of Southeastern Myotis in a shed in Natchez, Mississippi.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Lizz Beilke, Indiana State University

Under the advisement of Dr. Joy O'Keefe (Indiana State University-ISU), Vanessa Rojas (PhD candidate, ISU), Jordan Holmes (recent graduate, ISU), Yang Yi (Undergraduate, Fudan University, Shanghai, China), and myself (PhD student, ISU) spent the summer of 2016 studying bat communities in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

We continued netting the legacy net sites that our lab established in 2009 to monitor changes in the composition of the bat community. Since the advent of white-nose syndrome (WNS) in the park, we have detected declines of up to 100% for WNS-affected bat species. Although it was our original intent to track *Myotis sodalis* and *Myotis septentrionalis* to their roosts, we did not catch any *M. septentrionalis*, and only caught one female *M. sodalis*.

These stark declines suggested a need for further examination of bat activity and how they might be partitioning space in the park, so we also incorporated a widespread acoustic survey into our study. This acoustic survey encompassed 44 randomly-selected sites, stratified by 4 major vegetative classes: spruce-fir forest, northern hardwood forest, conifer and mixed hardwood forest, and early successional. Our preliminary results suggest *Myotis* bats occupy a separate niche from other bats, with their activity being concentrated at high elevation northern hardwood forests.



L to R: Lizz hiking to acoustic site; Yang deploying acoustic detector; Indiana bat with transmitter; Microphone at spruce-fir site.

West Virginia



Virginia Big-eared Bat Colony Counts

Craig Stihler

WV Division of Natural Resources

Virginia big-eared bats were counted at 11 maternity colonies in Grant, Pendleton, and Tucker counties, West Virginia between 31 May and 13 Jun 2016. Emergence counts were conducted at cave entrances by West Division of Natural Resources personnel using infra-red lights and night vision equipment to tally the bats. Virginia big-eared bats continue to do well, and they appear not to be impacted by White Nose Syndrome. The total number of bats tallied in 2016 was 9,004, the highest number on record. This represents a 4.3% increase over the 2015 total. Since 2008, the summer before white-nose syndrome was documented in West Virginia, the population has increased 41.3%.

Submit Your State Updates

It's great to see so many submissions from most of our southeastern states! Great work everyone! We love reading about all of the research and outreach you are conducting in your regions. From those regions that didn't contribute this year, we look forward to hearing from you for next year's state updates.

Send in your reports and photos anytime from the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

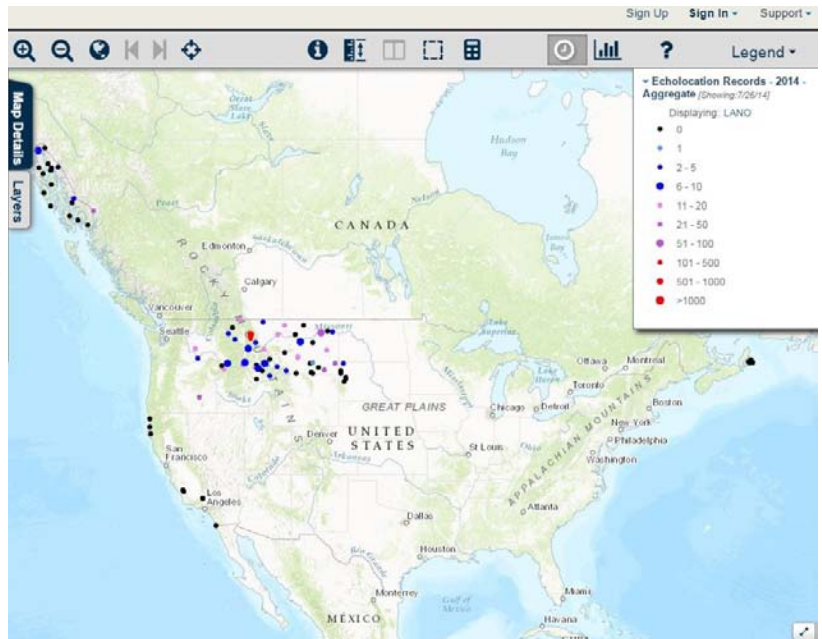
Send summaries and photos to nightwingnews@gmail.com

Items of Interest

BatAMP Seeks Long-term Acoustic Datasets

The Bat Acoustic Monitoring Portal (BatAMP) continues to gather momentum. It now contains datasets from coast to coast, with heavy representation emanating from the Montana area (thanks Bryce Maxell and crew!). One of the primary objectives of BatAMP is to visualize movement patterns and seasonal changes in site occupancy by migratory species. The foundation has been laid for this but more datasets from throughout the SBDN influence area will be key to filling the blanks. Have you conducted acoustic monitoring at the same location for a few days or more? If so, please consider uploading to the BatAMP. Data collected during any time from 2006 to the present will be useful and help us fill knowledge gaps about bats in North America.

Full instructions can be found at batamp.databasin.org or contact Carla Wein-kauf cweinkauf@batcon.org



Map depicting number of detections of silver-haired bats. BatAMP maps allow day-by-day animations of detections to view changes over time.

Eastern Small-footed, Gray Bat, and Big-eared Bat Working Group Meetings

In conjunction with the 2017 SBDN Annual Meeting, the Eastern small-footed, Gray bat, and Rafinesque's big-eared bat working groups will hold meetings the morning of Thursday, February 16. Keep an eye on the 2017 meeting agenda for times for each group meeting.



Eastern Small-footed Bat Thesis Research

Kristi Confortin's (M.S. Candidate at Ball State University under advisement of Dr. Tim Carter) thesis focuses on the roost ecology of the eastern small-footed bat (*Myotis leibii*) in Southern Illinois. Unlike many other *Myotis* species, the eastern small-footed bat primarily uses upland habitats and relies on rocky outcrops with loose rocks for roosts. In 2005 a population of this species was discovered in the Shawnee National Forest in Southern Illinois, where they weren't supposed to exist! They were since added to the Illinois endangered/threatened species list. To guide future management decisions, Kristi examined the roosting habits of the eastern small-footed bat in the Shawnee National Forest. During the summer of 2015 and 2016 Kristi tracked both female and male eastern small-footed bats to their day roosts using radio-telemetry. Preliminary results show that eastern small-footed bats use a variety of roosts; including loose rocks, rock cervices, cliff bluffs, and bridges.

Funded by US Forest Service. Field assistance: Andrew Byers, Sarah Clark, Meredith Hoggatt, and Elise Stanmyer.

Awards and Recognition

SBDN SERVICE AWARD

Purpose: To recognize outstanding service and contributions to the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network.

Nomination Procedure: The SBDN awards committee will call for nominations in September or October of each year through the SBDN mailing list. Nominations will be submitted to the committee by December 1. Nominations can be submitted by any SBDN member, including members of the Executive Committee and the Awards Committee. Nominations will consist of a letter that describes the nominee's service to SBDN. The committee will review the nominations and evaluate them based on significance of the contributions to SBDN. One name will be forwarded to the SBDN Executive Committee for final approval by January 1. If no worthy nominees have been submitted for consideration, no name will be forwarded to the Executive Committee.

Award Process: The awardee will be announced at the SBDN annual meeting, usually held in February. A plaque will be presented to the awardee by the previous recipient or the SBDN president. The Awards committee will be responsible for obtaining the plaque and funds will be provided by SBDN. A copy of the nomination letter and pictures of the award presentation will be deposited in the SBDN archive.

SBDN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Purpose: To recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the conservation of southeastern bats through research, education, or management efforts. The intent of this award is to recognize more senior individuals who have amassed a variety of accomplishments throughout their careers. The award is SBDN's highest honor. The award may not be given every year.

Nomination Procedure: The SBDN awards committee will call for nominations in September or October of each year through the SBDN mailing list. Nominations can be submitted by any SBDN member, including members of the Executive Committee and the Awards Committee. Nominations will be submitted to the committee by December 1. Nominations will consist of: 1) a letter that describes the nominee's accomplishments and how they have impacted bat conservation in the southeast, and 2) the nominee's Curriculum Vitae. The committee will review the nominations and evaluate them based on the totality of the accomplishments and their impact on bat conservation and/or our understanding of bat ecology. The committee will forward one name to the SBDN Executive Committee for final approval by January 1. If no worthy nominees have been submitted for consideration, no name will be forwarded to the Executive Committee.

Award Process: The awardee will be announced at the SBDN annual meeting, usually held in February. A plaque will be presented to the awardee by the previous recipient or the SBDN president. The Awards committee will be responsible for obtaining the plaque and funds will be provided by SBDN. A copy of the nomination letter, the awardees' CV, and pictures of the award presentation will be deposited in the SBDN archive.

North American Bat Conservation Alliance

The North American Bat Conservation Alliance (NABCA) is an informal alliance among federal, state/provincial and local government agencies; regional bat working groups; non-government organizations; industry; individual scientists and biologists; and concerned members of the public interested in bat conservation. The role of NABCA is to facilitate coordination and communication among parties interested in bat conservation in North America by soliciting, compiling and sharing information relevant to bat conservation, and promoting cooperative activities.

Survey Conducted

The Steering Committee of the North American Bat Conservation Alliance developed a list of 21 potential threats facing bats in North America. The threats were categorized based on the established IUCN–CMP Threats and Actions Classifications (<http://www.conservationmeasures.org/beta-versions-of-the-iucn-cmp-threats-and-actions-classifications-available/>). These classifications provide a framework for organizing threats and conservation actions using a common language. The development of this list was also informed by compiling the materials collected from nearly 400 participants at the North American Joint Bat Working Group Meeting held in Saint Louis, Missouri, March 3-6, 2015.

Early 2016, the steering committee created an electronic survey using SurveyMonkey, asking bat experts for their input to understand how the importance and impact of these threats varies regionally across the continent. The survey was advertised to all bat regional working groups. Data was collected and the results were analyzed summarizing the various threats to bats and their perceived importance in various parts of the country.

Preliminary Data Presented at NASBR

Over 200 bat experts from 12 regions of Canada, United States of America (USA) and Mexico participated in an electronic survey and provided their best estimate of proportion of bat species affected by each threat in their region; the scope and severity of the threat to those species; and the trend in that threat. Mean value of a Scope–Severity index was used to rank threats within regions. The impact of pathogens and microbes on bats ranked as the top threat in most regions in Canada and the USA, but was considered a relatively low threat in Mexico and the Pacific Southwest. The impacts of evicting and/or eradicating bats from roosts ranked as high threats in eastern and western Canada and Mexico. Agricultural crops ranked as a high threat in Mexico and the USA’s Midwest, Southeast, and Pacific Southwest regions. Farming and ranching were also a high threat in Mexico. Regionally specific threats such as recreation activities in USA’s Mountain region and Alaska, fire suppression and management in the USA’s Pacific Northwest and Alaska, and dams and water management in USA’s Southwest were of high concern. Other major threats included impacts of renewable energy, climate change, industrial/urban development, forestry practices, and mining/quarry activity.

Upcoming

NABCA plans to publish results of the survey in 2017. The results provide geographic details of perceptions of threats to bat experts. NABCA hopes that this information will guide investments in conservation efforts and provide a basis for compiling information on beneficial practices to mitigate threats.

For more information visit batconservationalliance.org

Upcoming Events



Annual Meeting of the NORTHEAST BAT WORKING GROUP

January 11–13, 2017

Hotel UMass - Amherst, MA



22nd Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network & 27th Annual Colloquium on the Conservation of Mammals in the Southeastern U.S.

February 16–17, 2017

Renaissance Asheville Hotel-Marriott, Asheville, NC

Mississippi Bat Working Group

February TBA 2017

Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, MS



2017 Midwest Bat Working Group Meeting

April 6–7, 2017

Pyle Center - Madison, WI



97th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists

June 20–24, 2017

Hotel UMass - Amherst, MA



24th Annual Conference of the Wildlife Society

September 23–27, 2017

Albuquerque, NM

47th North American Symposium on Bat Research

October 18–21, 2017

Knoxville, Tennessee

Editors Closing Comments



YOU DID IT AGAIN!!

ANOTHER GREAT NEWSLETTER!!!



Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!



I hope everyone had a truly Merry Christmas

and

Will have a most Happy New Year!!

