

Bats News Northwest

BNW IS A NON-PROFIT, ALL VOLUNTEER CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION SPRING 2011



Western Bat Working Group Biennial Meeting, April 3 to April 8, 2011, Henderson, NV: Where Bat Biologists Go to Play!

by John E. Bassett

Believe it or not, bat biologists are human with the interests and desires shared by all humanity. Stated another way, they enjoy having fun too. In the western United States, western Canada, and northern Mexico, most bat biologists belong to the Western Bat Working Group (WBWG), a coordinating body composed of federal, state, academic and non-governmental scientists and wildlife managers with an interest in or responsibility for bats and their habitats. The WBWG group provides information on bat biology and management to its members and also provides advice and makes policy recommendations on matters of current concern in the management and conservation of bats to local, state and federal wildlife agencies.

Every two years, the group holds a meeting to provide its members an opportunity to exchange research and management information on topics of current concern. These get-togethers mix business and pleasure as will soon become apparent. The 2011 event was held at the Green Valley Resort and Spa in Henderson, Nevada.

The meeting consisted of two consecutive sessions, the first of which covered topics of general interest to bat biologists and managers and the second of which discussed topics of current concern to bats in the location, construction and operation of wind energy facilities. Topics discussed at the general information portion of the meeting included population and community ecology of bats, habitat use by bats, bats and closure of abandoned mines, white nose syndrome, inventory and monitoring techniques for bats, influence of wind energy development on bat conservation, and conservation status review and assessment of western bat species. Topics discussed at the Bats and Wind Energy Workshop included the history, current status and practice, and future trends in the location and operation of wind energy facilities in the western United States and Canada. This workshop was presented from the perspective of the major stake-holders in the current push to develop wind energy; presentations were made by biologists, engineers and managers from governmental, non-governmental, and industrial organizations involved.

Having described the intellectual fare available at the meeting, I should also give you a feel for the variety of other things to do at a resort in the "sun, fun, sin and sex capital" of the world, also known Las Vegas, Nevada. If you are totally committed to bats, or you are being paid by your employer to learn all you can, you faithfully attended the scientific sessions and took copious notes.



Bats Northwest web
site is waiting for you
at:
www.batsnorthwest.org

Join our monthly
BNW Meetings!

Second Tuesday,
6:30-8:30

Sand Point-
Magnuson Park
Building 30
Conference Room





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Where All are Inspired by the
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However, if you were trying to mix business with pleasure, you may have spent time enjoying the pool or the casino at the Green Valley Resort. Regardless of which path you followed, the food and amenities provided by the resort made sticking to your diet a true challenge.



Finally, if you do not have to punch a time-clock (i.e., you are retired), traveling from the Pacific Northwest to the Las Vegas area takes you past several other attractions well worth the time and effort to visit. The first point of interest is Lake Tahoe near Reno and Carson City, Nevada. Then, Death Valley National Park is well worth the drive, especially in April when the daily temperatures have not reached the extremes that the area is famous for. The first picture was taken at Stovepipe Wells which is located in Death Valley.



The second picture from Death Valley National Park was taken on the west side of the Panamint Valley as one leaves the park headed west.



Finally, north of Death Valley in eastern California, one travels through the Bishop area on the way to Mammoth Lakes and Mono Lake. This route allows the traveler to return to the Reno area and a connection to the outside world via the Interstate Highway System. The following photo illustrates the splendid view of the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada Mountains as one leaves Bishop, California.



In conclusion, attendees at this year's WBWG Biennial meeting were updated about the current trends in bat biology and management while being hosted in the style that Las Vegas is famous for. Depending on the participant's preferred mode of transport, they also had numerous opportunities to observe first-hand the beauty of the Great Basin area of the American West.

Green Lake Bat Walks 2011

Day	Date	Sunset Time	Batwalk Start
Fri	June 3	9:01 pm	8:15 pm
Wed	June 15	9:09 pm	8:30 pm
Mon	June 27	9:11 pm	8:30 pm
Wed	July 13	9:05 pm	8:15 pm
Tues	July 26	8:52 pm	8:00 pm
Thurs	August 11	8:29 pm	7:45 pm
Mon	August 22	8:09 pm	7:15 pm
Wed	Sept. 7	7:38 pm	6:45 pm

These public programs will be held near the Bathhouse Theater on the northwest side of Green Lake in Seattle. We will meet on the grassy knoll with picnic tables located across the paved Green Lake walking path from the theater at the Start Times listed above. Since the program will begin before sunset and continue after dark, you should dress appropriately for the weather conditions on the evening of the event. We look forward to seeing all of you at these events and to the opportunity to entertain you and educate you about bats.



Bathhouse Theater
 Photo courtesy of Seattle.gov

Our Mission

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. . .

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Many bat sites on the Web provide worthy information and great photos from around the world.

BATS NORTHWEST is focused on our regional bats, but there is so much to learn about bat conservation worldwide.

You may enjoy visiting some of the sites listed on our Resource Page at:

<http://batsnorthwest.org/resources.html>



Building for the Bats: Colin's Eagle Scout Project in Photos



Colin Rudnick, and Troop 324, in Shoreline built and donated a dozen Rocket Box bat houses to Bats Northwest.
Thanks Colin!



Keep up to date!
Check out
Bats Northwest's
Website.

Watch our
Events Page
for news on
upcoming
presentations and
field trips.

White-Nose Syndrome: The Latest

What is white-nose syndrome?

White-nose syndrome is a disease affecting hibernating bats. Named for the white fungus that appears on the muzzle and other body parts of hibernating bats, WNS is associated with extensive mortality of bats in eastern North America. First documented in New York in the winter of 2006-2007, WNS has spread rapidly across the eastern United States and Canada, and the fungus associated with WNS has been detected as far west as Oklahoma.

Bats with WNS exhibit uncharacteristic behavior during cold winter months, including flying outside in the day and clustering near the entrances of hibernacula. Bats have been found sick and dying in unprecedented numbers in and around caves and mines. WNS has killed more than 1 million bats in the Northeast and Canada. In some hibernacula, 90 to 100 percent of bats have died.

Numerous laboratories and state and federal biologists are investigating the cause of the bat deaths. A newly discovered fungus, *Geomyces destructans*, is associated with WNS. Scientists are investigating the dynamics of fungal infection and transmission, and searching for a way to control it.

What bats are being affected?

More than half of the 45 bat species living in the United States rely on hibernation for winter survival. Eleven cave-hibernating bats, including four endangered species and subspecies are already affected by or are potentially at risk from WNS.

Bat species affected by WNS:

- Big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*)
- Eastern small-footed bat (*Myotis leibii*)
- Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*)

endangered

- Little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*)
- Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)

- Tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*)

Bat species on which *Geomyces destructans* has been detected:

- Cave bat (*Myotis velifer*)
- Gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*)

endangered

- Southeastern bat (*Myotis austroriparius*)

Federally listed species found in the affected area that have not yet been confirmed with WNS or fungal infection:

- Virginia big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus*) **endangered**

- Ozarks big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii ingens*) **endangered**

Where is it now?

White-nose syndrome has continued to spread rapidly. At the end of the 2010-2011 hibernating season, bats with WNS were confirmed in 17 states and four Canadian provinces:

- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Indiana
- Kentucky
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- Vermont
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- New Brunswick, Canada
- Nova Scotia, Canada
- Ontario, Canada
- Quebec, Canada

The fungus associated with WNS, *Geomyces destructans*, has been confirmed in two additional states:

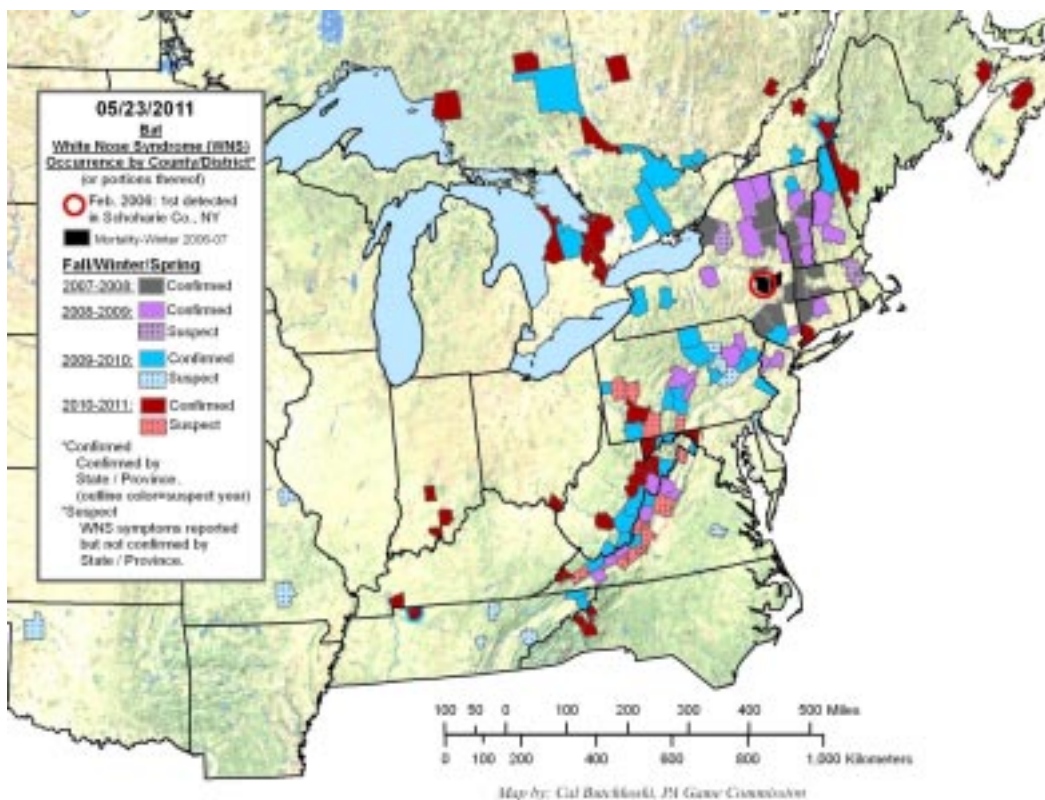
- Missouri
- Oklahoma

Fact Sheet provided by:

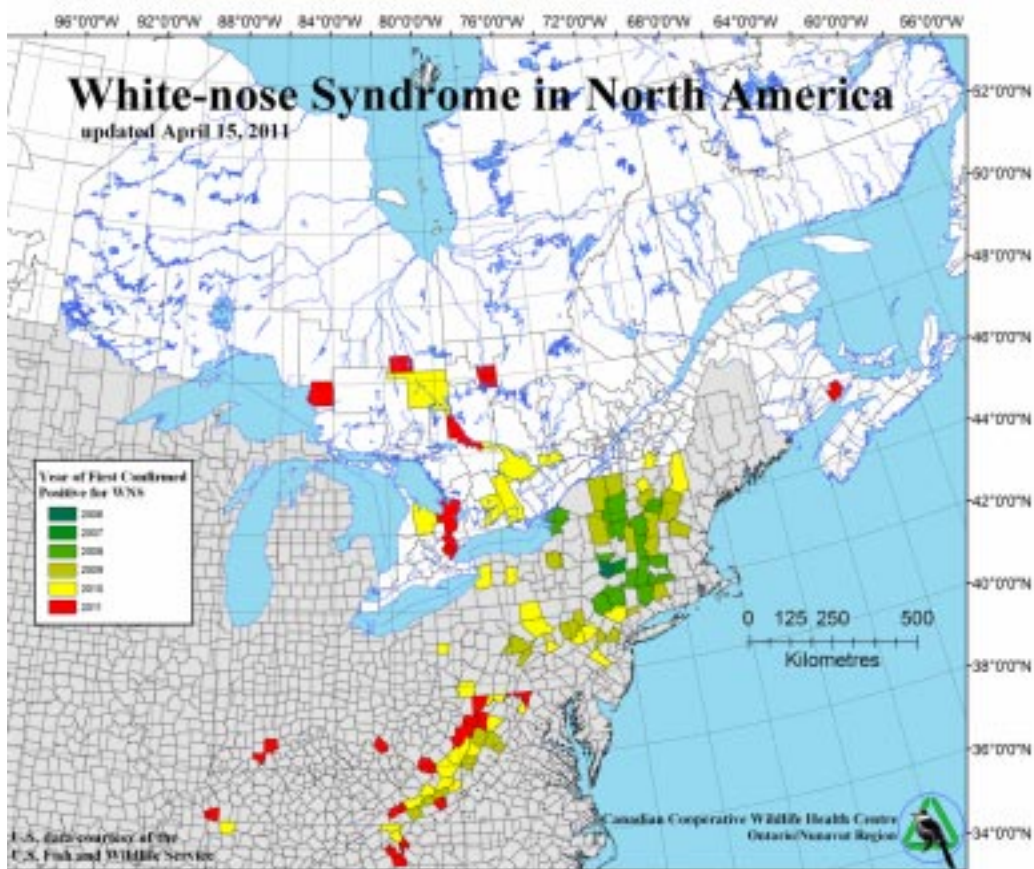
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Little brown bat with white-nose syndrome, New York
Credit: Al Hicks, NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation



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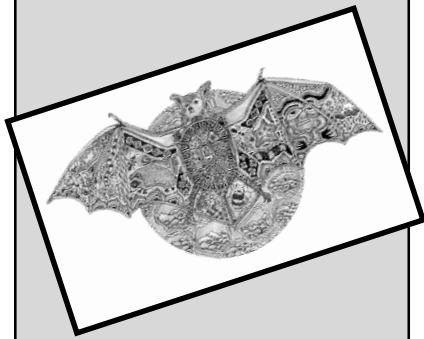




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