

Bats Northwest

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SUMMER/FALL 2014

News



Bats Northwest in the Media

CityStream: Bats in Seattle - Barbara Ogaard
Posted: August 14, 2014



<http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=4071441>

Ciscoe talks with Barbara Ogaard - All About Bats
Posted: August 9, 2014



<http://kioradio.com/listen/9975502/>

KEXP Sustainability Segment: Curt Black
Posted: Mon, 11 Aug 2014



<http://feeds.kexp.org/~r/kexp/mindovermatterssustainability/~5/iNsKOrnBoR4/01989123-6cfe-46ce-93cb-bcc22dbe471e.MP3>

The Seattle Times: Seattle couple hosts attic full of bats
SEE INSIDE
Posted: July 11, 2014



Photo by Lindsey Wasson, The Seattle Times

http://seattletimes.com/html/local-news/2024050282_batsattic.xml.html

The Seattle Weekly: After Dark: Where the Flying Furry Things Are
SEE INSIDE
Posted: Oct 7 2014
<http://www.seattleweekly.com/music/954850-129/after-dark-where-the-flying-furry>



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site is waiting for
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Second Tuesday,
6:30-8:30

Sand Point-
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Building 30
Conference Room



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Where the Public Recognizes
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Remarkable Attributes and
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Seattle Couple Hosts Attic Full of Bats

By Erik Lacitis
Seattle Times staff reporter

Six weeks ago, overnight, about 270 bats decided to take up residence at the Columbia City home of Brenda Matter and Bruce Crowley.

Yes, it was a disconcerting sight.

Every evening, 270 bats come streaming out of the attic of the two-story, century-old Victorian home so they can forage.

It's a warm, cozy, protected attic with just the right size gaps as entrances. A perfect bat home.

Something like this had never happened in the 28 years the couple has lived there.

"It was," says Crowley, "hard to believe."

Luckily for these little creatures, Matter and Crowley didn't immediately call a pest-removal service.

They could have. Bats are protected, but not when found in dwellings.

"I wasn't really scared, more curious," says Crowley. "Growing up on Capitol Hill, you used to see garter snakes everywhere in gardens. We don't have poisonous snakes here, so I'm not afraid of them, either."

Bats for centuries have suffered from lousy public relations. A few examples:

In the drawings for Dante's "Inferno," a gruesome Satan is shown with giant bat wings. You act unstable, and get called "batty." Even a superhero like Batman is portrayed as a moody Dark Knight. For some people, bats are filthy, bloodsucking, ugly flying vampires that carry rabies. "Flying rats" are what some call them.

But bats are real protectors of the environment, say advocates such as Bats Northwest.

The ones in the Northwest eat insects, and if not for them we'd be overrun by moths, flies and mosquitoes. Plus, bat guano makes great fertilizer.

Matter and Crowley are truly your prototypical nice-type Seattleites. After some



Photo by Lindsey Wasson, The Seattle Times



Photo by Lindsey Wasson, The Seattle Times

research, they decided to do the right thing by the bats and made them a neighborhood attraction, putting out lawn "bat-watching chairs" on the sidewalk in front of their home in the 3900 block of South Ferdinand Street.

On a recent night, 16 kids and adults gathered at dusk to watch the nightly bat excursion.

It wasn't IMAX-type excitement. The attic is what, 25 feet above ground, and the bats are small, each weighing a third of an ounce.

The bats also don't fly out all at once, so no Alfred Hitchcock "The Birds"-type visuals. Just a handful at a time.

Still, nature!

As Romi Silverman, 9, who lives next door, says, "It's just, like, cool."

It's the kids who sit nightly and have counted 270 bats, which takes considerably more patience than some of the adults have after standing around for 15 minutes watching the flitting creatures.

Doing all this for the bats will cost Matter and Crowley at least \$610, probably more, and a bunch of their time.

They don't mind.

"With the nightly gatherings, and meeting all the neighborhood, the whole thing will have the sort of memory load that comes with an exotic vacation. But the costs should be only a fraction of what a vacation like that would cost," says the couple in an email.

The couple have spent \$260 for rabies shots. Without their health coverage, they say, the price would have been \$1,500.

They decided to get the series of shots when one night, a bat made a wrong turn and, instead of going outside, began flying all over the upstairs. Crowley finally caught it with a canning jar.

You never know when there might be a next encounter, with maybe a scratch or bite from a scared bat, and a tiny percentage of them do carry rabies.

Continued on page 3

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The state's Department of Health says that fewer than 1 percent of bats have rabies, and only 5 to 10 percent of sick, injured or dead bats tested had rabies. Don't handle bats, says the agency, and the odds of contracting rabies are "extremely small."

The state recommends sealing up attics where bats take up residence. A contractor contacted by the couple estimated that would cost at least \$350, if "it's an easy job."

The job entails putting screen around the attic, with the screen funneled so that once the bats leave, they can't come back in.

Matter and Crowley will wait until September for that work.

That's because the bats right now have pups, and the pups are staying in the attic because they can't yet fly.

Matter and Crowley also have crawled around the attic to cover their belongings in plastic to protect them from bat excrement. They'll also themselves be replacing the insulation, where the bats likely are nesting.

Then, to give the bats a new home, Matter and Crowley are putting up a bat house — which looks like a stretched-out birdhouse — on a 12-foot pole.

Michelle Noe, president of Bats Northwest, joined the crowd outside the home on that recent night.

She's 32 and became a bat enthusiast while getting her degree at the University of Washington's College of Forest Resources and itemizing the species [of bats] on the Olympic Peninsula.

It turns out the Northwest has some 15 kinds of bats, with the most common aptly named the "little brown bat."

Noe guessed that's the kind that took up residence at the home of Matter and Crowley.

"Bats have been inhabiting the night's skies for over 50 million years, while the rest of us mammals have mostly stuck to the ground or trees," she says.

She preaches [against] bat myths, such as bats being vampires.

Vampire bats do exist, but only in the tropics, and they make up only three of the more than 1,200 species of bats.

Plus, they don't suck blood, but just make a cut with their teeth in large mammals like cattle and lap up the blood.

Meanwhile, the nightly viewings continue at the home of Matter and Crowley.

"I was thinking today about why we are happy about the bats," says Matter. "The bats need to go somewhere, and they think our house is a natural feature in the landscape. That feels pretty cool to us."

Times researcher Miyoko Wolf contributed to this report.

Erik Lacitis: 206-464-2237 or elacitis@seattletimes.com Twitter @ErikLacitis

Our Mission

Bats Northwest

Envisions a Future . . .

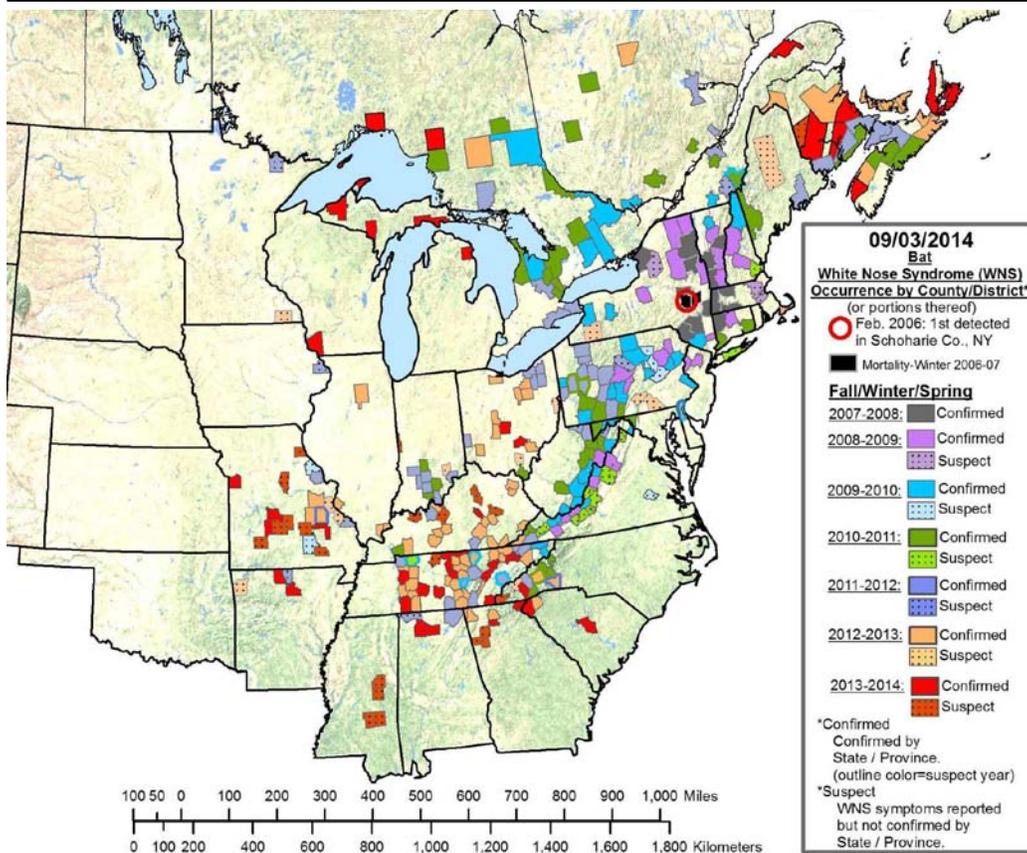
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Where the Public Recognizes the Vital Place of Bats

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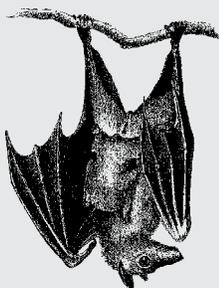


Map by: Lindsey Heffernan, PA Game Commission

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>



After Dark: Where the Flying Furry Things Are

Bats Northwest is a special kind of after-hours club.

By Kelton Sears
Seattle Weekly News

Next time you're out getting sloshed at the cantina, take a moment to thank a leathery winged mammal. "Bats are one of the main pollinators of the agave plant," says John Bassett, a retired UW biomedical researcher. "Without bats, there would be no margaritas. People either love or hate bats, but when you really learn about them, there's a lot of 'Gee whiz!' moments."

Bassett is also a proud 10-year member of Lynnwood's Bats Northwest, a group founded in 1996 to help protect Pacific Northwest bat populations through conservation and education. "Bats get a bad name," he explains, "because of one type of bat"—the blood-eating vampire bat, which he calls "the bad boys of the bat world." But, Bassett says, they're rare—"only three species out of something like 1,200, and they only live in Central and South America. The 15 species of bats in Washington state all just eat bugs." It goes without saying that without bats, there would be way more mosquitoes and flies in Seattle than any of us would be comfortable with.

According to Bassett, some of the best bat viewing in Seattle is at Greenlake; if you hang out after dusk settles, you can see them flitting over the water looking for dinner. They're easier to spot during the summer, which is when Bats Northwest hosts bat-watching sessions, but Bassett says you can still see them now if you look hard enough.

Sometimes they'll come to you. This past July, 270 flew into the attic of a Victorian home in Columbia City and took up residence. Rather than freaking out, the home owners simply closed off the attic, got rabies shots (fewer than one percent of bats have rabies), and invited Bassett's group to come and help host neighborhood bat viewings on the front lawn at night, when the colony would fly out in small bursts to search for food.

"As long as there's water and bugs, you can find bats," Bassett says. "Just don't touch them and you'll be OK."

Find out more at batsnorthwest.org.

ksears@seattleweekly.com



Yuma myotis. Photo by Daniel Neal via flickr.com

PROJECT EDUBAT – EDUCATION TAKING FLIGHT

LIVE WEBCAST – FOR TEACHERS, NON-FORMAL EDUCATORS, & ALL BAT FRIENDS!

OCTOBER 29, 2014

2:00 – 3:00 P.M. ET

Ever wondered how to get people excited about bats? Looking for new lessons to stimulate your students? Look no further. Project EduBat is an engaging educational program designed to prepare, inspire, excite, and motivate people of all ages to take part in conserving our bats!



California Leaf-nosed Bat
© Merlin D. Tuttle
Bat Conservation International,
www.batcon.org

To watch and send questions:

<http://nctc.fws.gov/broadcasts>



Brazilian Free-tailed bat
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Bat Conservation International, www.batcon.org

Bats are in decline nearly everywhere they are found. Bats in the U.S. and Canada have declined dramatically as a new disease, White-Nose Syndrome, has killed over 6 million bats in just six years. **BATS NEED OUR HELP!**

Join us for this free webcast and learn about new activities, resources, lesson plans, and educational trunks that will be available across the country for your use! Help make science come alive for your students, volunteers, and others. Inspire them to make a difference.

Join Us on October 29, 2014 at 2 p.m. ET

LEARN ABOUT:

- The benefits of bats and how they save us billions of dollars.
- How scientist study bats and identify them.
- How bats navigate using echolocation.
- How bats compare to your students.
- The threats that bats face including White-Nose Syndrome.
- How people of all ages can become bat champions!



SEE LIVE BATS!

Go to the Project EduBat webcast page hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

<http://nctc.fws.gov/broadcasts>. Click on the “NCTC Channel 1” photo/icon at the top of the page.

Livestream will load automatically. No registration required. Can't watch live? Watch later at:

<http://nctc.fws.gov/resources/knowledge-resources/video-gallery/education-outreach.html>

Supporting Partners:

USDA Forest Service • US Fish and Wildlife Service • Bat Conservation International • Organization for Bat Conservation • National Wildlife Federation • Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation • National Cave and Karst Research Institute • Prince William County Public Schools • Project Underground • Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources • US Geological Survey

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lend a hand?
Bats Northwest
would love your
help.

Would you like to
build bat houses?
Write newsletter
articles?
Coordinate other
volunteers?
Please contact us
to see how you can
help us help bats!



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Awards 1.3 Million Dollars in Grants to 30 States for Work on Deadly Bat Disease

August 25, 2014

Contact: Jeremy Coleman, 413-253-8223
Catherine Hibbard, 413-253-8569

tweets at www.twitter.com/usfws_wns and
download photos from our Flickr page at
www.flickr.com/photos/usfws_hq/collections/72157626455036388/.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced grant awards totaling \$1,276,088 to 30 states for white-nose syndrome (WNS) projects. State natural resource agencies will use the funds to support research, monitor bat populations and detect and respond to white-nose syndrome, a disease that afflicts bats.

"Although the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service leads the national response to white-nose syndrome, we can't do this alone," said Wendi Weber, co-chair of the White-Nose Syndrome Executive Committee and Service northeast regional director. "State agency partners are critical in the united fight against this devastating disease."

"White-nose syndrome has spread rapidly from one state in 2007 to 25 states and five Canadian provinces this year," said Dr. Jeremy Coleman, the Service's national WNS coordinator. "These grants provide essential support to our state partners in preparing for and responding to this disease. The research, monitoring, and actions made possible by these grants have yielded valuable results and insights for our national response to white-nose syndrome."

First discovered in New York in the winter of 2006-2007, the disease spread through the eastern U.S. and parts of Canada, and continues to move westward. The Service is leading a cooperative effort with federal and state agencies, tribes, researchers, universities and other non-governmental organizations to investigate and manage WNS. In addition to developing science-based protocols and guidance for land management agencies and other partners to slow the spread of WNS, the Service has funded many research projects to support management of the disease and improve understanding of it.

Funding for grants was provided through the Endangered Species Recovery and Science Applications programs. Thirty states submitted proposals requesting \$1,284,048. All eligible requests were given at least partial awards, ranging from about \$11,500 to \$52,500, for a total of \$1,276,088.

Additional information about WNS is available at www.whitenosesyndrome.org/. Connect with our white-nose syndrome Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfwswns, follow our

WNS Grants to States 2014 Awards

State	Award
Alabama	\$52,500
Arkansas	\$48,750
Colorado	\$52,500
Delaware	\$22,928
Florida	\$50,832
Idaho	\$52,500
Illinois	\$43,112
Indiana	\$36,500
Iowa	\$28,769
Kentucky	\$50,000
Maryland	\$50,500
Massachusetts	\$52,500
Michigan	\$52,500
Minnesota	\$17,096
Mississippi	\$50,391
Missouri	\$11,667
Nebraska	\$49,867
New Hampshire	\$20,545
North Carolina	\$52,500
Ohio	\$52,500
Pennsylvania	\$26,000
Rhode Island	\$35,610
South Carolina	\$51,000
Tennessee	\$50,000
Texas	\$50,452
Utah	\$48,648
Vermont	\$42,895
Virginia	\$39,000
West Virginia	\$45,700
Wisconsin	\$38,326
Total	\$1,276,088

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit www.fws.gov, or connect with us through social media channels.

White-Nose Syndrome Updates for the 2013/2014 Surveillance Season

To: Natural Resource/Conservation Managers

From: Dr. Jonathan Sleeman, Center Director, USGS National Wildlife Health Center

Date: August 5, 2014

Wildlife management agencies in three states—Arkansas, Michigan, and Wisconsin—reported their first confirmed cases of white-nose syndrome (WNS) among clinically affected cave-hibernating bats this past winter season, increasing the total number of affected states to 25. Although no new Canadian provinces were added in winter 2013/2014 to the five that are affected, continued expansion of the disease was reported in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario, as well as in the Midwestern and Southeastern United States. Evidence of clinical WNS now extends as far west as Jackson County, Missouri, which is on the border with Kansas, as far south as Paulding County, Georgia, and as far north as the 49th parallel in Quebec. Non-lethal PCR-based swab surveillance for the causative fungus, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (*Pd*), was expanded into Great Plains and Southern states last winter, and the fungus was detected for the first time in several central Mississippi counties. Despite the addition of several new states to the list of WNS confirmed states, there were not any large geographic jumps in the continued spread of white-nose syndrome during winter 2013/2014. Wide-spread detection of *Pd* and clinically ill bats in multiple counties throughout Missouri indicates that the disease is now endemic there.

Also of note, Woodward County, Oklahoma, classified in spring 2010 as “WNS suspect”, was removed from the official list of areas suspected to be contaminated with *Pd* based on ongoing surveillance and subsequent reanalysis of archived samples at NWHC using an improved molecular test (PCR). As a result, cave myotis (*Myotis velifer*) has been removed from the list of species found to harbor *Pd*, although this species likely remains at risk for infection as WNS continues to spread westward. More information is available about these changes at <https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/news/> (posted May 7, 2014). *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* was also recently identified by molecular testing (PCR) of a silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*) hibernating at a site in Delaware known to be contaminated with the fungus since winter 2011/2012. View the current map of WNS Occurrence by County created by the Pennsylvania Game Commission at http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease_information/white-nose_syndrome/

Continued surveillance during the winter hibernation period through spring emergence (based upon swab-sampling of bats and hibernaculum substrates) is highly encouraged next season in states at the edge of known *Pd* distribution, adjacent states of unknown status, as well as strategic sites identified in western states. In addition to detecting *Pd* presence in new sites lacking clinical disease, cluster sampling around recently identified *Pd* contaminated sites will help assess the rate and distance of *Pd* movement and evaluate risk factors thought to be associated with its detection at hibernacula. Surveillance options outside this time period or geographic region also exist as does continued monitoring for *Pd* exposure in bats within the WNS endemic region. The NWHC provides diagnostic and epidemiological assistance to investigate unusual bat mortality events throughout the year. Tribal, state, and federal agencies wishing to participate in the expanded national *Pd* surveillance strategy should contact Anne Ballmann (608-270-2445, aballmann@usgs.gov) to discuss options for their region.

Current NWHC bat submission guidelines are available at: http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease_information/white-nose_syndrome/USGS_NWHC_Bat_WNS_submission_protocol.pdf.

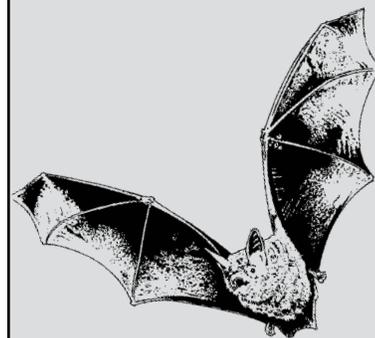
WNS Communications, Publication, Video of Interest

The WNS Communications and Outreach Working Group of the Interagency WNS National Plan developed some key messages that will help wildlife officials communicate with others who are not familiar with WNS. Knowing these messages will help us all speak in a unified voice about WNS. You can download these messages here.

A recent study, published in the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases*, demonstrated that long-wave ultraviolet (UV) light elicits a distinct orange-yellow fluorescence in bat-wing membranes (skin) that corresponds directly with the fungal cupping erosions in histologic sections of skin that are the current gold standard for diagnosis of WNS. USGS distributed a press release announcing the paper cited below.

Turner, G. G., C. U. Meteyer, H. Barton, J. F. Gumbs, D. M. Reeder, B. Overton, H. Bandouchova, T. Bartonicka, N. Martínková, J. Pikula, J. Zuka, D. S. Blehert, 2014. Nonlethal screening of bat-wing skin with the use of ultraviolet fluorescence to detect lesions indicative of white-nose syndrome *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* 50(3): 566–573.

Ravenswood Media, the company that produced the video “Battle for Bats: Surviving White-Nose Syndrome,” has now completed a Spanish version of the film (translated by Rodrigo Medellin). English and Spanish versions are available at <https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/resource/battle-bats-surviving-white-nose-syndrome-english-and-spanish-versionsvideo>



Bats Northwest

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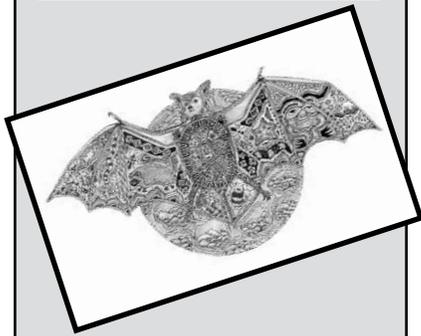
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