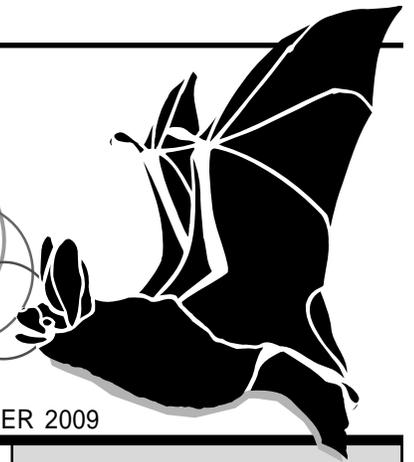


Bats News Northwest

SUMMER 2009

BNW IS A NON-PROFIT, ALL VOLUNTEER CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION



White Nose Syndrome Can We Stop It?

by Meg Lunnum

There have been several articles in the Bats Northwest newsletter about White Nose Syndrome, the fungus that is causing thousands of bats to die in the East. It gets way more graphic when you hear a professional bat biologist say they didn't know what to do -- cry or throw-up when they initially heard about the devastation of the hibernating bats in caves in New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia to a total of nine states.

The latest news comes with the lead-in comment -- crap, crap, crap, crap. White Nose Syndrome is suspected in three more locations in Virginia as of April 23, 2009. A single bat was found on a building in Cumberland County, there are a couple of mineral mines that will be looked into to try to trace this bat. The Bland County site is close to Giles County and no surprise. This cave holds little brown bats, Indiana bats, and Virginia big-eared bats. Because Rafinesque's Big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus rafinesquii*) are a species of concern, capturing several of these bats to ensure their survival is a distinct possibility.

Rockingham County, the last county is on the west side of the Blue Ridge and the cave in question is in a commercial area, Endless Caverns. The owners of the cave are incorporating a WNS education component and decontamination procedures. Bats have been collected from all these sites and sent for testing.

During their biennial meeting, the Western Bat Working Group had a working session to draft a collaborative vision of a strategy to increase the awareness and prevention of WNS in the west. In addition to members of WBWG, there is also participation from grotto members and the National Speleological Society. There were seven breakout groups: Collaborate with grottos, to educate cave visitors and prevent WNS; public relations, general education; restrictions/closures at mines/caves; inventory and monitoring

needs; state/provincial working groups roles to avoid WNS; critical research that the WBWG can facilitate between east and west to address western concerns; and finally, to review recommendations from the entire group.

It all comes down to being vigilant, contacting state health departments, veterinarians, animal control organizations, pest control agencies, and others who might be able to ascertain a pattern of bat injuries and/or deaths under unusual circumstances.

Bat Conservation International has requested the concerned public and the bat community write letters to their respective Senators and Congresspersons asking for funding to help discover how to combat this terrible problem. Other web sites for information: www.batmanagement.com/wns/wns.html and www.wbwg.org look under Conservation.



Little Brown Bat with WNS.
Photo courtesy WVDNR.



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



Bats Northwest
Envisions a Future

Where the Essential Role
of Bats is Understood

Where the Public
Recognizes the Vital Place
of Bats In Our Environment
and Economy

Where All are Inspired by
the Remarkable Attributes
and Invaluable Contribution
of Bats to Our Natural
Heritage

Board of Directors

Chris Anderson
Kathleen Bander
John Bassett
Meg Lunnum
Michelle Noe
Barb Ogaard

Technical Advisors

Curt Black
Sarah Schmidt

Newsletter Editor

Michelle Noe

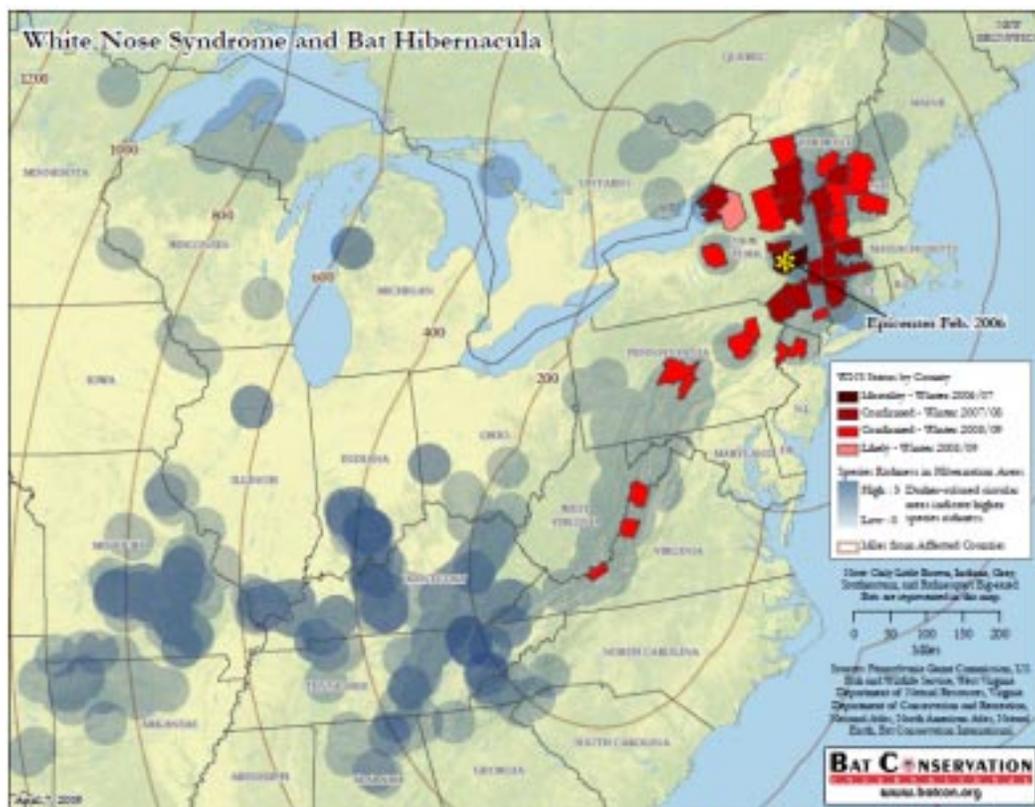
Web Master

Michelle Noe

206.256.0406

www.batsnorthwest.org

Mapping White Nose Syndrome



Friends and Colleagues,

Please find attached the latest (until we make recent updates) version of the 'BCI - WNS - hibernacula map'. This map was developed by Zac Wilson, BCI's GIS and Database Analyst, with suggestions for other BCI personnel, and under the guidance of our Co-Director of Programs, Dr. Dave Waldien. We have received feedback from many folks/agencies that it does a good job of showing the occurrence - and imminent threat to important hibernacula in the eastern US. Many of you have seen it - and may already have a copy - but I saw this address list as a chance to make sure that a number of concerned folks in the west have this map available - to show to other biologists within your organizations - particularly any 'higher-ups' that may have influence on funding decisions - it is sometimes hard to convey the seriousness of this threat without visual aids. It is BCI's hope that this visual aid may be useful to you in doing just that.

We will, unfortunately, be updating this map very soon - as it seems there may be more counties in Virginia to add. When there is a solid location to find the very latest version of this map - I'm sure we will announce that. In the meantime - this version seems to do the job of alarming, and rightfully-so, anyone who has not yet considered this threat in detail.

Thanks again for your work on behalf of bats and their habitats.

Sincerely,

Michael Baker
Michael D. Baker, Ph.D.
Indiana Myotis Program Coordinator
Bat Conservation International
Kentucky Field Office

Bats can keep home at Hanford

The Tri-City Herald

RICHLAND -- The U.S. Department of Energy says it's OK for the largest known colony of bats in Eastern Washington to stay in its underground home at the Hanford nuclear reservation.

The 2,000 bats live in a concrete structure once used to hold Columbia River water before it was used at a reactor. The structure was to be demolished as part of the Hanford cleanup, but that was before a contractor discovered the bats roost there from mid-March to mid-October.

The tiny bats -- a species called Yuma myotis that are smaller than a mouse -- seem to like their underground home, which hasn't been used by anyone else in 30 years.

Washington Closure, the contractor handling cleanup in that area, launched a study to find out more about the bats after workers discovered them in 2006.

The Energy Department, which oversees Hanford cleanup, then began receiving letters urging it to let the bats remain after word of the creatures' adopted home became public.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the regulator on the project, also agreed that the structure should be saved as a home for the bats. The agency concluded the structure had no chemical or radioactive contamination that would

require it to be cleaned up, and the Energy Department agreed that it remained structurally sound.

"We didn't want to disturb such great bat habitat," said Craig Cameron, an EPA scientist.

The bats have developed a seemingly thriving colony and are reproducing, so the decision to let them remain is a good one, said Curt Leigh, manager of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife major projects section.

Because the site is in the secure area of Hanford across the Columbia River from the White Bluffs, only Hanford workers are nearby.

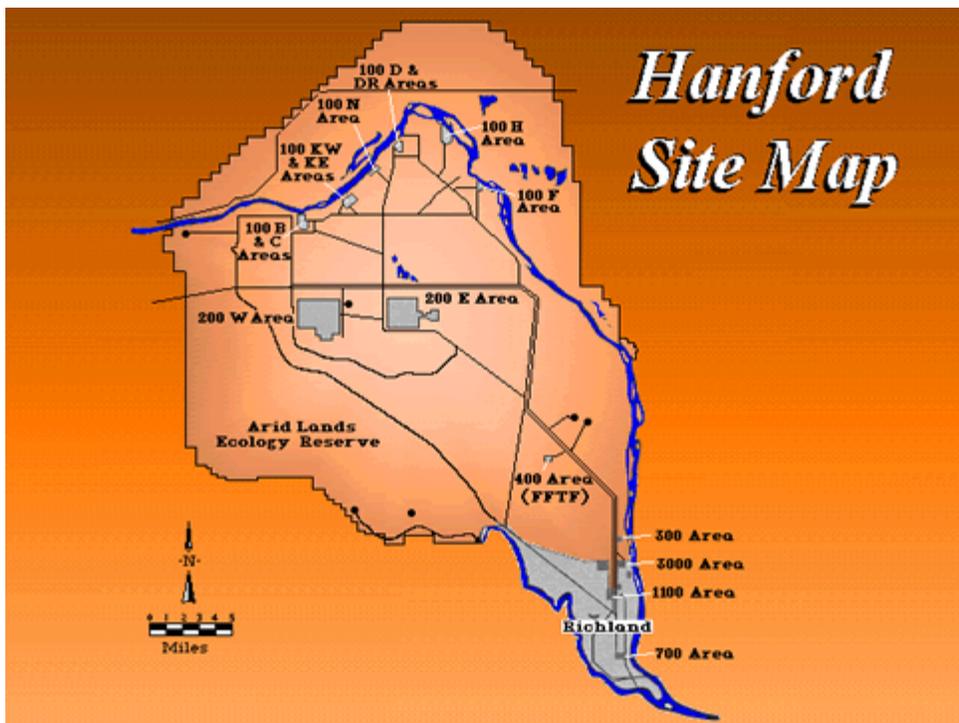
Each Yuma myotis weighs about 6 to 8 grams -- less than two nickels -- and has a body smaller than a mouse. But they look bigger in flight because of a wing span that stretches 6 to 8 inches. In a night they might eat their weight in small insects, such as the mosquitoes and midges that are plentiful along the nearby Columbia River.

Researchers believe the structure is used by a maternity colony with females each raising a single pup through the spring and summer.

In Washington, only one other known colony of bats, which lives under an Olympia pier, is believed to rival the size of the Hanford colony.

Our Mission

***Bats Northwest
Envisions a Future . . .
Where the Essential Role
of Bats is Understood
Where the Public
Recognizes the Vital Place
of Bats
In Our Environment
and Economy
Where all are Inspired by
the Remarkable Attributes
and Invaluable
Contribution of Bats to Our
Natural Heritage***

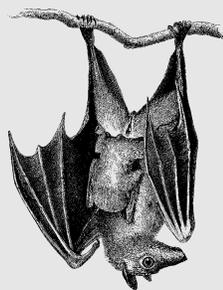


Picture courtesy Washington Military Department.

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 these sites.

www.batcon.org
www.wa.gov/wdfw/wildwatch
www.batsound.com
www.lubee.com
www.athertontablelands.com/bats
www.batbox.org
www.batworld.org
www.californiabats.com
www.batcrew.com
www.warksbats.co.uk



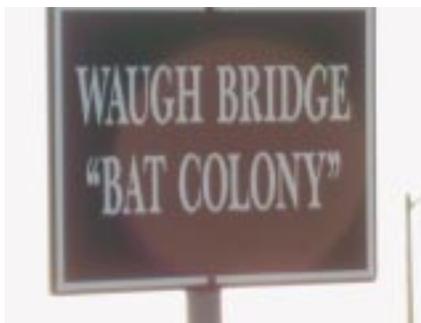
The Other Bat Bridges of Texas

by John E. Bassett

Mention bats and bridges in the state of Texas in the same breath and most people who know anything about bats will immediately think of the Congress Street Bridge in downtown Austin! As the following photograph shows, this bridge is quite picturesque being situated over a small impoundment on one of the local rivers. And in the evenings during a large part of the year, waves of Mexican free-tailed bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) emerge from their roosting spots in the underside of the bridge and fly off to forage in the countryside around Austin. This daily spectacle draws visitors to the area and is promoted as a tourist destination by the local businesses.



The Congress Street Bridge, however, is not the only bridge in Texas used by bats as a roost. Bats have also taken up residence in a bridge over Interstate 35 near Round Rock north of Austin and in bridges over US Highway 90 near the towns of Hondo and D'Hanis west of San Antonio. In addition, a colony of Mexican free-tailed bats has found a home in a bridge near downtown Houston.



The Waugh Bridge Colony occupies a bridge over an urban creek which is located in a greenbelt about 10 minutes west of downtown Houston. The greenbelt has jogging/walking trails on both sides of the creek which appear to be popular with the residents of the area. The surrounding neighborhood is also an upscale area of apartment buildings and remodeled homes which appears to be a desirable location to live due to both the modern, stylish dwellings and the proximity of the area to downtown Houston.

The Waugh Drive structure is a typical concrete street bridge which was built with 2 inch wide by 18 inch deep slits in the underside which run parallel to the street on the top. This type of construction is also similar to that employed in the Congress Street Bridge in Austin. The following





photograph taken from the south side of the bridge (looking north) shows the bridge and the greenbelt.

The popularity of the area can also be seen in the following photograph by the warning signs on the bridge for trail users and others to “Never Handle Grounded Bats”, which is sound advice at any time and in any

situation. Also, observers are warned not to stand too close during the bat emergence least they get an unexpected shower of bat droppings as the large number of animals all leave in a short period of time.

Another sign of the popularity of this urban location for bat watching is seen in the following photograph of people waiting on the south side of the bridge for the bats to emerge on a Sunday evening in mid-April. Also visible in the picture are the buildings of Downtown Houston, which are due east of the bridge’s location. The Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife also conducts regular informational programs at this location during the summer months ([http://community-2.webtv.net/masternaturalist/](http://community-2.webtv.net/masternaturalist/THEWAUGHBATMONITOR)THEWAUGHBATMONITOR).



The following photograph shows the bats leaving their day-roosts under the bridge at about dusk in mid-April. At this time of the year, the colony would be composed mostly of pregnant females. After the young of the year start flying in July, the number of bats present will increase substantially. This picture was taken from the bridge deck looking to the east toward downtown Houston with the bats headed away from the bridge toward the east. These flocks of bats will fly as far as 50 miles one way each night in search of suitable foraging areas and disperse over the landscape to ensure that all the animals can find enough insect prey to meet their dietary needs.



The foraging free-tailed bats will return to the bridge around sunrise the next morning to again spend the day in the cracks in the underside of the bridge. The entire cycle will be repeated day after day as long as the bats continue to live in the urban Waugh Bridge Colony.

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

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

Green Lake Bat Walks 2009

Day	Date	Sunset Time	Batwalk Start Time
Thurs	June 4	9:02 pm	8:15 pm
Tues	June 23	9:11 pm	8:30 pm
Wed	July 1	9:11 pm	8:30 pm
Fri	July 17	9:01 pm	8:15 pm
Mon	July 27	8:50 pm	8:00 pm
Wed	August 12	8:26 pm	7:45 pm
Thurs	August 27	7:59 pm	7:15 pm
Tues	September 8	7:35 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.

BATS OF THE NORTHWEST



<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Big Brown bat
<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	Silver-haired bat
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary bat
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Townsend's Big-Eared bat
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	Pallid bat
<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	Spotted bat
<i>Parastrellus hesperus</i>	Canyon bat
<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Little brown myotis
<i>Myotis evotis</i>	Long-eared myotis
<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	Fringed myotis
<i>Myotis volans</i>	Long-legged myotis
<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	Yuma myotis
<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>	Small-footed myotis
<i>Myotis californicus</i>	California myotis
<i>Myotis keenii</i>	Keen's myotis

Bats Aren't the Only Culprits in Rabies Problems

by Kathleen Bander

Around the world, every year, at least 50,000 people, mainly children, die of rabies. The majority are infected by animal bites. It's a number that has remained static for some time, but now scientists are trying to get control of the situation. The first step has been to identify how rabies is being contracted.

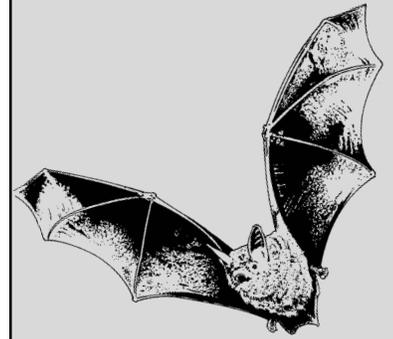
Dogs spread more rabies than any other animal, by far. Yet in the U.S. dogs aren't the problem they are in other parts of the world. That is in large part due to the pet vaccination and stray-dog control programs which are well-run and accepted by the general public.

So if not dogs, what? Raccoons and skunks top the four-legged list of animals implicated in rabies transmission. But the problem with raccoons and skunks is turning around, largely because of the more than a hundred million doses of oral vaccine that scientists are able to get into known "hot" zones. (Washington state has no terrestrial animal reservoirs of rabies.)

Scientists are fairly confident they will be able to bring rabies under control in raccoons and skunks. But the third ranking transmitting animal flies, and that makes it a more difficult problem to deal with. That animal, of course, is the bat.

How do you vaccinate on the wing? (Can't you imagine a cartoon of a hapless scientist perched on a tall ladder, hypodermic needle clutched in his outstretched hand.) Not to be outdone, however, scientists are coming up with a variety of ideas, ranging from the fantastic to the possible. One is to genetically modify insects so they become drug deliverers. Another is to make bat parasites the drug deliverers.

Though it is early in the effort to vaccinate bats against rabies, past successes argue that it is an effort which will pay large dividends, both for bats and for humans. Maybe when rabies is not an issue with bats, the American people can finally be rid of the negativity surrounding bats, and concentrate on bats' important contributions to all humans, worldwide.



Bats Northwest

206.256.0406

www.batsnorthwest.com

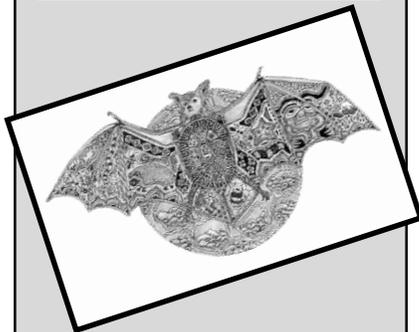




Bats Northwest Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 3026
Lynnwood, WA 98046
206.256.0406

Bats Northwest web site:
www.batsnorthwest.org



Become a Bats Northwest Member

Join us in the adventure to learn more about our bat neighbors!

Membership Options: \$35 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

BATS NW T-SHIRTS

You'll look great in our Bats Northwest Long-Sleeved T-Shirt! It also makes a wonderful gift.

Heavyweight cotton, natural off-white, with a brightly colored bat graphic.

I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER _____ (QUANTITY) BATS NORTHWEST LONG-SLEEVED T-SHIRT(S) AT \$22.00 EACH FOR A TOTAL OF \$ _____ (AMOUNT).

SMALL___ MEDIUM___ LARGE___ X-LARGE___ 2X___



206.256.0406

Lynnwood, WA 98046

P.O. Box 3026
Bats Northwest

