



Midwest Bat Working Group

5th Annual Meeting

Meeting Notes (Katrina Schultes)

Muncie, IN

4 April 2013

CONGRATULATIONS to our student award winners!! They each received \$100:

Best Student Oral Presentation: KRISTINA R. HAMMOND

Best Student Poster Presentation: LISA A. POWERS

Rob Mies – Welcome and Introduction to MWBWG

- Gave a brief background the Midwest Bat Working Group.
- **Thanks to all the sponsors!**
- Become a member! We're facilitating communication between groups and advocating bat priorities.
- Join the list-serv: contact Tim Carter (tccarter at bsu.edu)
- Consider running for the board in the future!
- Most presentations will be videotaped and available for viewing via a weblink on www.MWBWG.org.

Tim Carter

- Government sequester has caused a lot of travel cancellations. We're glad to see as many participants here as were able to come.

Summary of Invited Speakers

Andy King (USFWS) gave national and regional updates on white-nose syndrome. The northeast USA has experienced an overall 88% decline in bats, while the Midwest has been slower to realize declines, with initial reports coming from Ohio and Indiana. There are 7 committees engaged in implementing the National WNS Plan (www.whitenosesyndrome.org) with opportunities for involvement. Accomplishments and tasks include a national bat monitoring program, captive management options, artificial hibernacula, WNS-Risk Ranking Framework for Cavernicolous Bats, and more. Andy also talked about listing assessments for northern long-eared bats, small-footed bats, and little brown bats. Status assessments and a listing decision are due 9/30/2013.

Andy King also discussed updates on the USFWS's proposed revisions to the 2007 Indiana bat summer survey protocols. All public review comments will be posted on the USFWS Indiana bat website (<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/mammals/inba/index.html>). There were



approximately 1,000 comments that were organized into themes for consideration. The Team developed a 2013 Contingency Plan. As an alternative to acoustics, the Team explored a mistnetting Presence/Absence survey option for 2013. A “Draft 2013 MYSO Summer Survey Guidance Overview” has been prepared and submitted for FWS review. Andy presented what was available for release at the time.

Newly proposed 2013 Phased Approach (Contingency Plan):

- Phase 1 – Initial Project Screening (coordinate up front with USFWS; habitat assessment [desktop assessment is OK]; assess potential for adverse effects to MYSO – can avoidance and minimization measures be employed that would not lead to Incidental Take? Project proponents can always assume presence and not do surveys).
- Phase 2 – Presence/Absence Surveys: mistnetting only (Team considered required level of effort) or acoustic surveys as previously proposed: optional coarse screening: calls >35kHz; additional analysis at sites with HF calls using 2 or more available software programs; if any probable MYSO detections (by any program) you can (1) conduct qualitative visual identification, (2) assume presence and coordinate with USFWS, or (3) assume presence and proceed to Phase 3 (netting). Final part is not ready to be presented yet – must get regional FWS approval first.
- Phase 3 – conduct mistnetting to capture bats
- Phase 4 – Radio-tracking and Emergence Counts

Next steps:

- Finalize overview and guidelines (need agency approval).
- Finalize standard testing criteria and test call library and run tests of currently available acoustic ID software programs for official use in 2014 and beyond.
- Finalize new survey guidelines (fall 2013 or early 2014) for implementation in 2014.

There were many questions and comments that followed.

Next on the schedule was an Acoustics Seminar in which David Riggs (Wildlife Acoustics) presented *Bat species identification from zero crossing and full spectrum echolocation calls using HMMs, Fisher Scores, unsupervised clustering and balanced winnow pairwise classifiers: What Bat is That?* He gave a demonstration of the Kaleidoscope software program. Ryan Allen (Bat Call Identification, Inc.) followed up and presented *BCID: Overview to a realistic approach for automated acoustic identification*. He then gave a demonstration of the Bat Call Identification software program.

Meeting Summary

Day One: there were 4 oral presentations in the Acoustics session, followed by two demonstrations: Use of UV for WNS Field Tests and Hands On Demo of UV Methods by J. Gumbs (BATS Research Center). Breakfast and breaks were sponsored by Cardno JF New and Wildlife Acoustics, respectively. The poster session was held concurrently with the evening social sponsored by Organization for Bat Conservation.



Day Two: there were 8 oral presentations on a variety of bat research topics, state reports, and the Business Meeting (notes below). Breakfast and lunch were sponsored by Titley Scientific and Illinois Department of Natural Resources, respectively.

Awards and Announcements

Dave Redell Lifetime Achievement Award

2012 created the award, named after Dave, who passed away this past autumn.

2013 – nominations were accepted, one nomination was received:

**JOHN O. WHITAKER, JR. IS THE 2013 RECIPIENT OF THE
DAVE REDELL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Annual Meeting

2014 Host: Joe Kath in Illinois

2015 Host: Sybill Amelon - we are considering a joint regional Bat Working Group meeting with the northeast, southeast, and western groups in Missouri.

Membership Questions or Comments

Katrina requested a volunteer photographer for future events to help record MW's history as it happens!

- Kirsten Alvey (nonprofit Missouri Bat Census) and Marne Titchenell (Ohio State Extension) volunteered to help with meeting photos in the future.

Student Awards

Best Student Oral Presentation: KRISTINA R. HAMMOND, Indiana State University, "Presence Only Modeling of Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) Summer Roosting Habitat in the Southern Appalachian Mountains"

Best Student Poster Presentation: LISA A. POWERS, University of Illinois, "Does *Geomyces destructans* Reduce Female Fertility in the Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*)?"



Midwest Bat Working Group

5th Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Muncie, IN
5 April 2013

Called to order at 11:45 PM by Rob Mies, President.

Thanks to our host, Dr. Tim Carter, and special thanks to Brianne Walters for organizing!

Board of Directors Updates

2013 Board elections: Rob Mies, President, and Brianne Walters, Treasurer, remain in their respective positions. Tim Carter was re-elected and the Board welcomes back Gerda Nordquist (Minnesota DNR) and new director Scott Johnson (Indiana DNR).

We would like to add a student board position with full voting rights. An amendment to the Bylaws is needed to do add this position.

- Empowers students, gives students experience, may also invite more students to participate and become members.
- Comment: Joe Senulis – we specifically chose an odd number of Board members to avoid ties with voting. Rob explained that the President's vote would be used as a tie-breaker.
- **DECISION:** unanimous approval by membership for creation of this position.

Website needs some updates

- History of the MWBWG
- State Highlights/Updates – please send to Bree McMurray

Treasurer Report

- Brianne Walter is our Treasurer as we are financially housed at Indiana State University
- We have excess funds to help pay for speakers at future meeting or for other activities
- Close to 70 members (63 officially at Directors meeting, but a few more folks have paid)
- Developing table-top awareness display for MWBWG that can be shipped around to be used/presented at festivals, meetings, and other venues
- Considering possible sponsorship of various bat events in Midwest

Committees

*****We have various committees and would like more member participation!*****

Annual Meeting, Nominations & Elections, Awards, History/ Bylaws, Website, and Membership