

**California Bat Working Group (CBWG) Meeting Notes
February 7, 2017 Reno, NV**

(First, a HUGE thank you to Heather Johnson, who took many of these notes while on the phone)

Included at the end of the notes are: a list of upcoming meetings, a list of attendees (please let me know if you need emails for anyone – I decided not to send out addresses, other than mine and Scott Osborn's, since I hadn't asked permission to do so), a note and call for acoustic data to be put into the Bat Acoustic Monitoring Portal (BatAMP) and the instructions for subscribing to the California Bat Working Group listserv.

Action items are indicated by being underlined. If I missed any action items, please let me know.

1. Dave Johnston on proposal to adopt the pallid bat as the California State Bat:

- Townsend's big-eared bat listing under state Endangered Species Act would have helped drive conservation but no listing occurred.
- Lyle Lewis proposed listing of western red bat years ago around 2001, this was blocked by USFWS administration in office at that time.
- It's difficult to provide better conservation for bats; need to do something to create awareness.
- (Wikipedia note) Mexican free-tailed bat state bat in Oklahoma and also the Texas state bat, Virginia big-eared bat is Virginia's state bat, and Hawaiian hoary bat is state bat of Hawaii. The general assembly of North Carolina considered a bill in 2007 that would have made Rafinesque's big-eared bat its state bat. The bill passed 92-15, but died in the state senate.
- Establishing California state bat should be non-controversial. Dave Johnston has been working with Bill Dodd new state senator and researching the question - how do you broker a legislative bill? Competition for time and competition to move through state senate.
- Did folks know we even have a State lichen?!
- Someone mentioned getting school children to write letters with drawings of bats.
- Bronwyn Hogan suggested taking Bill Dodd staff (or any senate voter) out on bat walk or other field work.

Action Item: Write Senator Bill Dodd to support making pallid bat the state bat. Or telephone his legislative assistant (see below). Writing and calling are more effective than emailing.

Senator Bill Dodd
3rd Senate District
State Capitol, Room 5064
1315 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

The senator's legislative assistant is Leslie Spahn at 916-651-4003

2. Pat Brown on Awards and Scholarships:

- Each state has working group and Mexico and Canadian provinces all belong to Western Bat Working Group (WBWG), website is www.wbwg.org, this website has info on scholarships, biennial meeting coming up in April with session on WNS.

Calif Bat Working Group Notes from Reno Meeting Feb 16, 2017

- Bob Berry technology scholarships info on website: deadline is March 1st winners will be announced at WBWG meeting
- Dixie Pierson award to encourage attendance at conference (must be presenter of poster or paper) deadline is March 1st, with winners announced by Mar 15 or ASAP
- Bonnie the Bat was an educational bat for over 20 years; scholarship to promote education: deadline of Mar 15 with winners announced at WBWG meeting.

3. Leila Harris' Announcement on Meetings of an "Acoustic Café":

- Leila has been organizing informal bat meetings once per month in Davis and Sacramento areas. At meetings bat researchers review acoustic software, provide presentations, discuss ideas, and share demonstrations. People in the other state areas have expressed interest in starting similar meetings, ex. Jill Carpenter in southern California. Contact Jill for more information on southern CA meetings; contact Leila if you want to talk more about these northern CA bat meetings.

(Editor's note For example at these meetings we have had presentations on acoustic monitoring do's and don'ts at roosts, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) issues, successful mitigation at a hibernacula mine in Missouri, discussed current Townsend's big-eared bat research, the difficulties of surveying for tree roosts, and raised awareness of regional bat work through round robin discussion.)

3. Bronwyn Hogan on surveillance for White Nose Syndrome (WNS):

- WNS now occurs on west coast in Washington; fungus was found in little brown bat and silver-haired bat, as well as in guano (likely from Yuma myotis) found in a night roost.
- How do we go about surveilling for fungus when we don't have relatively accessible large hibernating populations like the east coast?
- Early spring (Feb to April) best time to get samples - can't get good samples after Spring.
- Ask people to monitor at roosts? Pat Brown asked if public health personnel are swabbing bats submitted for rabies testing. CDFW's Deanna Clifford and Scott Osborn have been dealing with state Dept. Public Health (DPH), putting together WNS fact sheet for DPH folks to alert them to test for WNS early in the chain of custody. CDFW also produced outreach letter to animal rehabbers to test for WNS. There has been sensitivity regarding perception of work direction from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to Department of Public Health.
- Bill Rainey pointed out that the bulk of rabies-tested animal materials held in County labs. The CA Public Health agency has marked changes in funds and staffing – maybe we can make County contacts who are willing to work with CDFW. Scott mentioned that there seems to be some centralization of public health work and they are trying to get info to (and from) public health departments in most efficient manner.
- Bronwyn Hogan has the recently released draft updated national surveillance plan which will not be posted on whitenosesyndrome.org; contact Bronwyn to get a copy.
- Pat Brown suggested that people with handling permits could send in guano or swabs.
- Bronwyn said CA areas that are more likely to have hibernating roosts such as northeastern CA, Sierra Nevada, etc. may be focus of requested test samples for fungus.
- We discussed balancing disturbance of roosts vs. the need to gain test material.
- We emphasized getting information without adding stressors to bats by disturbing them in the roost.

Calif Bat Working Group Notes from Reno Meeting Feb 16, 2017

- Pat Brown recommends guano trapping and mist netting to obtain bats to test for fungus, rather than entering roosts.
 - Also a concern regarding overwhelming labs that don't have funds or personnel to handle samples; and there may be a minimum sample size needed. Discussion about how many samples are significant enough to send in to lab – 10 is desired but less may be acceptable.
 - After late April not useful to swab bats for fungus but should collect any bats dead from WNS. Bronwyn and Scott will be confirming details on best methodology, timing and what labs are available to run samples and will send that info out.
 - Long discussion about surveillance ideas, limitations on gathering information like using relatively heavy GPS tracking on small bats, short battery life of telemetry equipment, etc.
 - Yosemite may be getting their climbing rangers involved in looking for bats (along the lines of what is being done at Devil's Tower in WY. Someone (Bronwyn?) to send Climbers for Conservation info (Rob Schorr) to Sarah Stock
 - Someone asked what is humane method of euthanasia of bats for DPH? She read that in Pennsylvania they put bats into a freezer which is not humane. Scott replied he believes chemical used to kill bats but will look into it.
4. Scott Osborn on the listing decision for Townsend's big-eared bat:
- CDFW had peer review of status review and recommendation not to list.
 - Scott read through the definitions of threatened and endangered species and explained that CDFW acknowledged significant threats but determined that Townsend's big-eared bat not in danger of extinction now or in future.
 - The review identifies habitat essential to the continued existence of the species and includes any roosting habitat as well as nearby foraging habitat. CEQA review should protect roosts and surrounding foraging habitat based on this identification of essential habitat by CDFW.
 - Pat Brown pointed out that current statewide survey for presence absence of Townsend's big-eared bat is not comparable to monitoring the most important factors of colonial species (maternity and hibernation roosts).
 - Leila Harris asked what CBWG can do to make sure bats protected in CEQA process now that candidacy is not helping with conservation? Scott replied that increased awareness and increased bat work should continue but CBWG needs to help keep consultants (and all entities addressing potential project impacts under CEQA) addressing impacts to bats with information and guidance.
 - Kim Fettke pointed out that CDFW has to require bat protection to order for consultant clients to pay for surveys, for example how surveys are required in CDFW's Streambed Alteration Agreements (SAA).
 - Jill Carpenter observed that SAA's have made exponential jumps of improvement, ex. practicality of requirements.
 - Scott used to do CEQA review of timber harvest plans and noticed sensitive plants were not being addressed, so he developed procedures and methods and guidance for foresters to address plants. Got a lot of push back but did make progress in a couple years.
 - Greg Tatarian commented that CDFW measures and CEQA review varies on an office by office, region by region basis. For example, CDFW biologists may be trying to improve or be more specific on SAA measures (ex. defining what is a qualified biologist) but supervisor may not agree with biologist.
 - Dave Johnston pointed out that CEQA is a process of disclosure of impacts, therefore not intended to effectively protect roosts like an SAA might.

Calif Bat Working Group Notes from Reno Meeting Feb 16, 2017

- Bronwyn asked “What can we do as a community to help bats in the CEQA process?” We can share information, and ensure decision-makers are informed.

5. Sarah Stock at Yosemite NP brought up the need for guidelines to address bat roosting habitat during tree removal when a removal project includes too many trees to conduct bat surveys, for example recommend time of day or temperature window?:

- Pat recommended avoid felling trees during maternity season April through August.
- Bill suggested establishing tree size class considerations, for example trees under a certain diameter are too cold (core temperature) to be hibernating habitat and there is published literature addressing temperatures.
- Discussion will continue. If interested in that topic, contact Sarah Stock

We were out of time so we quickly mentioned:

- CBWG has usually met in conjunction with conferences and we want to increase frequency and duration of meetings. We will poll for dates and locations to meet again. Bronwyn to send out Doodle poll

(Editor's note: Additional thoughts (which may have been discussed in side conversations or during the following week) on maintaining contact. One idea is to have a California Bat Working Group Facebook page. If there is interest, Bronwyn will start one – please let her know if you would like to help out with managing that. Another is a Google docs site where folks could share info about monitoring work they are doing. There is already a Databasin portal where we could share information. We could discuss this on a future call/webinar.)

Upcoming Meetings:

Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology

Feb 28-Mar 3 (There will be sessions on bat acoustics and on WNS)

<http://thesnvb.org/2017-annual-meeting/>

2017 Bat Echolocation Symposium: Learning to Listen

March 26-Apr 1, 2017 - Tucson, AZ

<http://www.batsurveysolutions.com/Events/2017acousticsymp.html>

Western Bat Working Group Meeting

April 11-14, 2017 – Ft. Collins, CO

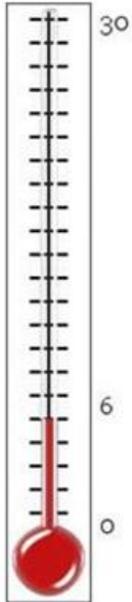
<http://wbwg.org/western-bat-working-group-biennial-meeting/>

Calif Bat Working Group Notes from Reno Meeting Feb 16, 2017

List of Attendees

In person:	On Phone:
Bronwyn Hogan (CBWG co-chair) bronwyn_hogan@fws.gov	Heather Johnson (note-taker extraordinaire)
Scott Osborn (CBWG co-chair) scott.osborn@wildlife.ca.gov	Greg Tatarian
Mike Buchalski	Linda Angerer
Kim Fettke	Dan Taylor
Sarah Stock	Steve Norton
Sam Aguilar	
Kirsten Winter	
Scott Gressard	
Becky Rogers	
Karen Harville	
Elaine Tan	
Tiffany Whitsitt-Odell	
James Jones	
Danny Gammons	
Lindsey Rich	
Ryan Byrnes	
Meredith Rodriguez	
Gabe Reyes	
Dave Johnston	
Bill Rainey	
Pat Brown	
Philip Leitner	
Michelle Harris	
Kim Briones	
Coye Burnett	
Wes Watts	
Colin Dillingham	
Brad Valentine	
Laura Cockrell	
Joyce Schlachter	
Sarah Holm	

Datasets



Bat AMP Challenge!

In December we challenged western bat researchers to help us meet our goal of adding 30 new datasets to the Bat Acoustic Monitoring Portal (BatAMP) **by February 28, 2017**. We have received 6 new datasets to date - 4 from Alaska, 1 from California and 1 from New Mexico.

We need 24 additional datasets in the next 3 weeks to reach our goal! If you have been meaning to contribute your data, now is the time!! Go to <https://batamp.databasin.org/> to get started. If you need help with the upload process, please contact Ted Weller (tweller@fs.fed.us).

Thank you for helping to make BatAMP a success!

California Bat Working Group Mailing List Information

Information about how to use the mailing list is provided below: (Information provided by Joe Szewczak of Humboldt State University)

The California Bat Working Group Listserv is open to everyone that would like to send and receive information and news regarding bats in the west, and for disseminating news and events for the CBWG.

Subscribing to the CBWG Mailing List:

To receive list mail at the address from which you're sending your mail, simply send a message to: joe (at) humboldt.edu and write in the *subject line* of the message: subscribe cbwgList

If for some reason you wish to have the mailings go to a different address (a friend's address, a specific other system on which you have an account, or an address which is more correct than the one that automatically appears in the "From:" header on the mail you send), then tell Joe that address (or addresses for you or others) in the body of the message.

Once subscribed, you should next get a welcome message, containing list policies and features. (Unfortunately, only members with a humboldt.edu address can directly access any of the links listed in that welcome message.)

To UNSUBSCRIBE from the mailing list, simply send a message to: joe (at) humboldt.edu and in the *subject line* of the message write: unsubscribe cbwgList

Using the CBWG Mailing List:

To send a message to EVERYONE on the list: cbwglis (at) humboldt.edu.

Please honor the usual etiquette for listservs:

- **Do not post a message unless you think it may be of interest to the entire group.**
- **Use care in replying to a message, e.g., if someone posts a message and you want to reply to that individual only, check that the address on your message is to that individual and not the mailing list address.**