

WISCONSIN'S CITIZEN-BASED MONITORING REPORT

TITLE

Acoustic Bat Monitoring: a Madison-based state-wide contribution

AUTHOR NAME AND AFFILIATION

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GOALS

White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) is a devastating disease of hibernating bats that has caused the most precipitous decline of North American wildlife in recorded history. A major way hoofers can help in the state-wide bat monitoring program is by the club having an acoustic bat detection system. Hooper trips are extensively navigating WI roads, parks, rivers and lakes anyways. HOC will make the bat-detector available, free of charge, to non-HOC individuals and organizations willing to perform acoustic bat surveys. HOC will also provide open-to-the-public training sessions regarding proper use of the bat detector.

STUDY PERIOD

We were able to purchase the bat detector and its accessories in May 2011. We performed training and monitoring sessions June-August 2011.

STUDY AREA

Although the monitoring unit can be used statewide, it has mostly been used in the Madison area, and was crucial in collecting information within the Southeast Glacial Plains and the Central Sand Hills ecological regions.

METHODS

Training:

We used the Acoustic Bat Monitoring training module developed by the DNR.

Monitoring:

The monitoring unit can be borrowed by any person or organization doing a trekking or quiet water trip in WI.

Accessibility:

For ease of accessibility, the monitoring unit was housed at the DNR offices in Madison, and can be reserved through their open on-line system

<http://wiatri.net/Inventory/Bats/Monitoring/Acoustics/Mobile/viewSchedule.cfm?StartMo=4>

Follow-up:

We created a "bat acoustic monitoring" chair, a non-voting HOC exec board position, to oversee the use, maintenance of and training on the bat monitor. Nate Frenczak is currently holding the position.

RESULTS

In June and July, HOC conducted 4 monitoring trips, and 11 HOC members took the formal training organized by HOC. In addition, the DNR alongside other organizations and volunteers used the unit. The unit was used in the survey of a total of 56 predetermined water routes in the Southeast Glacial Plains and the Central Sand Hills ecological regions.

The HOC monitoring trips are:

Union Terrace 6/2/11 Species found: EPFU, MYLU, LABO, MYSE, LACI

Pheasant Branch Conservancy 6/16/11 Species found: MYLU, MYSE, EPFU, LACI

Elver Park 6/30/11 Species found: EPFU, MYLU, LABO, MYSE

Cherokee Marsh 7/11/11 equipment was not connected properly or malfunctioning

Check the following link for a map:

[http://www.bing.com/maps/?v=2&cp=43.08121566357565~-](http://www.bing.com/maps/?v=2&cp=43.08121566357565~-89.42478870849608&lvl=12&dir=0&sty=r&sp=Point.r5cjgz7jgzn6_Union%20Terrace____~Point.r55b7b7j7dpg_Elver%20Park____~Point.r5k5cj7j8543_Pheasant%20Branch%20Conservancy____&form=LMLTCC)

[89.42478870849608&lvl=12&dir=0&sty=r&sp=Point.r5cjgz7jgzn6_Union%20Terrace____~Point.r55b7b7j7dpg_Elver%20Park____~Point.r5k5cj7j8543_Pheasant%20Branch%20Conservancy____&form=LMLTCC](http://www.bing.com/maps/?v=2&cp=43.08121566357565~-89.42478870849608&lvl=12&dir=0&sty=r&sp=Point.r5cjgz7jgzn6_Union%20Terrace____~Point.r55b7b7j7dpg_Elver%20Park____~Point.r5k5cj7j8543_Pheasant%20Branch%20Conservancy____&form=LMLTCC)

FUTURE WORK

This year's acoustic bat monitoring season is over. For next season, we plan on organizing monthly monitoring training sessions, starting in April. Our chair will collaborate with other HOC activity chairs (canoeing, backpacking, caving, etc...) as well as other Hooper clubs to maximize the use and area coverage of our monitoring unit. Finally, we will keep the monitoring unit freely available to any interested individual or organization, in an effort to create new and sustain current partnerships.