

News and Comment

Emergency COSEWIC Assessment for Three Species of Bats

An emergency assessment for three species of bat, Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*), Northern Myotis (*M. septentrionalis*), and Tri-colored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), was requested by the Province of Nova Scotia on October 3, 2011. The request was due to: concerns regarding the mortality levels of White-nose Syndrome (WNS) on various bat species in the northeastern United States since 2006; the apparent rate of spread of the disease; and its confirmation in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario. In early February 2012, an Emergency Assessment Subcommittee of COSEWIC assessed the three species as Endangered and recommended to the Minister of the Environment on February 22, 2012 that an Emergency Order be issued placing all three on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*. A decision from the Minister is pending.

The rationale for the recommendation was: 1) catastrophic population declines have occurred in all three species in northeastern United States and similar impacts have occurred in Canada, with inference that future impacts to Canada will be same as had occurred in the United States; 2) a population model for *M. lucifugus* (considered applicable to *M. septentrionalis* and *P. subflavus*), predicts functional extirpation (decrease to < 1% of population) within 16 years for the northeastern region; and 3) predicted rate of spread was fast enough to impact > 50% of the Canadian population within three generations.

As per COSEWIC policy, a full status report is required within one year of an emergency listing decision by the Minister. All three species were addressed in a single report that is being reviewed currently by jurisdictions and other COSEWIC members. It is expected that the status report will be discussed at the full committee of COSEWIC in 2013.

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The Canadian Herpetologist (TCH) is a publication produced twice each year by the Canadian Association of Herpetologists and the Canadian Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Network.

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Consequences of multiple paternity for female fitness in an Ontario population of Northern Map Turtles, *Graptemys geographica*. — **Boenke, M.** M.Sc. 2011. Redpath Museum, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec. (Supervisor: David Green). Terrestrial Habitat and Ecology of Fowler's Toads (*Anaxyrus fowleri*). — **Krause-Danielsen, A.** M.Sc. 2012. University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba. (Co-supervisors: Pamela Rutherford and Nicola Koper). Using landowner knowledge and field captures to determine habitat use by the Northern Prairie Skink (*Plestiodon septentrionalis*) on exurban residential land in southwestern Manitoba. — **Moldowan, P.** B.Sc. 2012. University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. (Co-supervisors: Ryan Gregory and Tom Nudds). Influence of genome size on call complexity of anurans. — Recent Publications in Canadian Herpetology — News and Announcements — Membership Forms: CARCNET and CAH — Appendices to Schueler and Karstad article.

Global Wildlife Resources – Wildlife Handling Job Board

Global Wildlife Resources has created a wildlife handling job board. This job board compliments other existing job boards and specifically lists jobs involving wildlife capture and handling as part of the job duties and helps potential employers find qualified applicants.

There are also links to other job boards and suggestions on how to succeed at finding work. More information is available at <http://www.wildliferesources.org/job-board/>.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

As an antidote to the poisonous review of G. Vernon Byrd's and my book, "Birds of the Aleutian Islands, Alaska" (Series in Ornithology No. 1, Nuttall Ornithological Club and American Ornithologists' Union, 2007), published in CFN 125 (2), I refer any interested person to earlier, positive reviews of that work published in the spectrum of journals exemplified by

Marine Ornithology 37:93-95 (2009), Wilson Journal of Ornithology 120:425-426 (2008), Journal of Field Ornithology 79:226-228 (2008), Western Birds 39:107-108 (2008), and Birding 40:82-83 (2008).

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