

Introduction

The British Columbia Bat Action Team (BCBAT) was formed in 2009. BCBAT is a group composed of government and non-government biologists, veterinarians, researchers, naturalists, students, wildlife rehabilitators and other persons interested in the conservation of British Columbia's 16 bat species.

BCBAT was created to promote the conservation of bats in British Columbia. Although bats are managed by the provincial Ministry of Environment, the committees of BCBAT provide input into development of provincial bat survey standards, designation and management of bat species at risk, education and outreach, and identification of bat research and conservation priorities.



Pallid bat
Antrozous pallidus.
Red-listed.
L. Andrusiak photo.

BCBAT committees

The members of BCBAT are working on a number of issues important to the province's bat species and their management. Active committees include:

- **White Nose Syndrome** – developing strategies to minimize the potential of introduction of white-nose syndrome into the province, and to deal with white-nose syndrome if it should be detected
- **Bat Species at Risk** – updating the provincial conservation status of BC's bat species
- **Wind Energy Bat Survey Protocols** – developing appropriate bat survey guidelines to assist biologists assessing impacts of planned wind energy projects
- **Bats and Mines** – working collaboratively with provincial mine agencies to consider bats and bat habitat, and the threat of White-nose syndrome, as they pertain to mine assessments, closures and reactivations
- **RISC Standards and Education** – developing and updating bat handling and survey standards to ensure that persons working with bats are appropriately qualified.



Colony of Yuma myotis *Myotis yumanensis*.
Yellow-listed. J. Craig photo.



Introducing the British Columbia Bat Action Team BCBAT

The bat species of BC

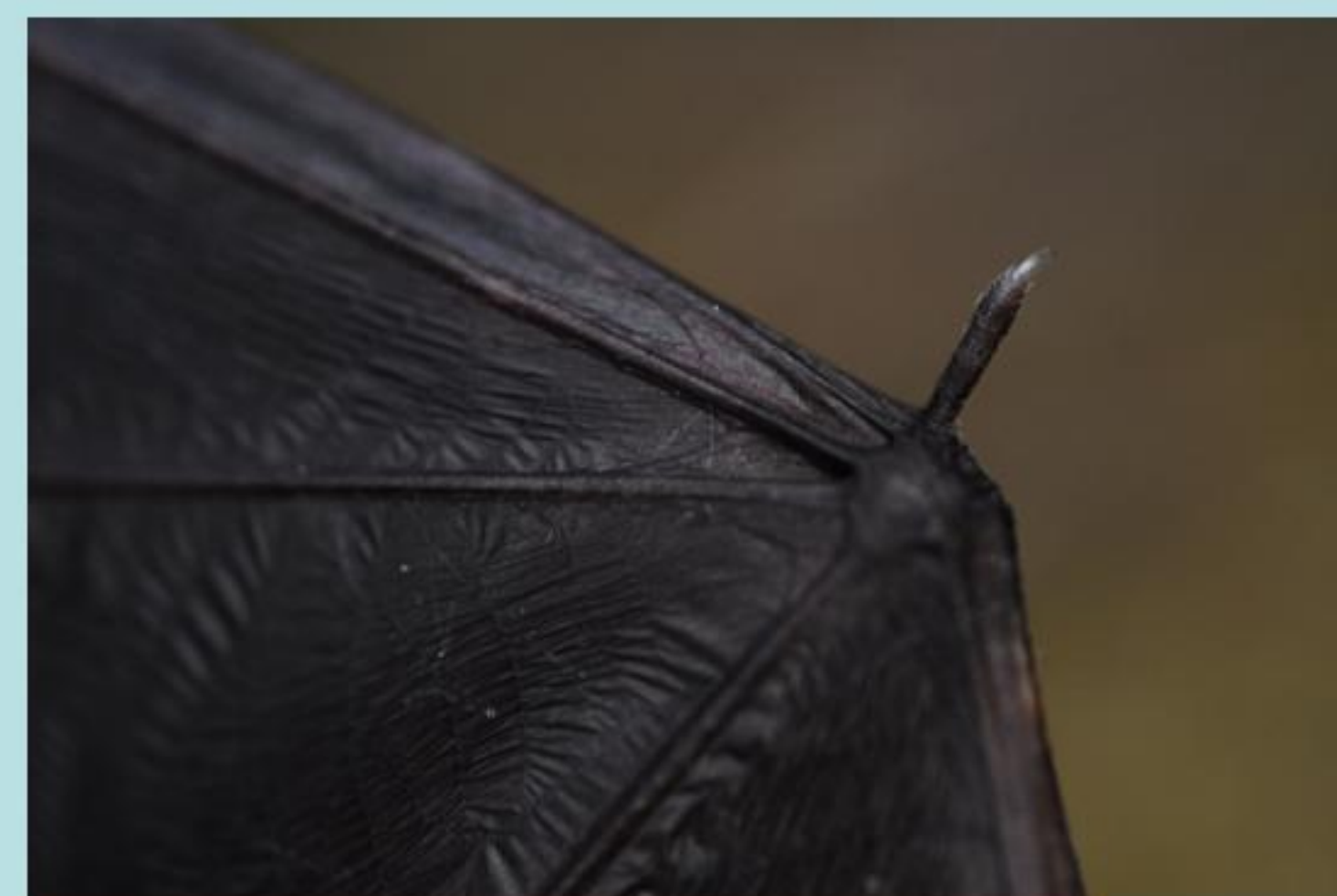
There are sixteen bat species in British Columbia, of which seven are provincially listed as of conservation concern (Table 1).

Table 1. Bat species of British Columbia

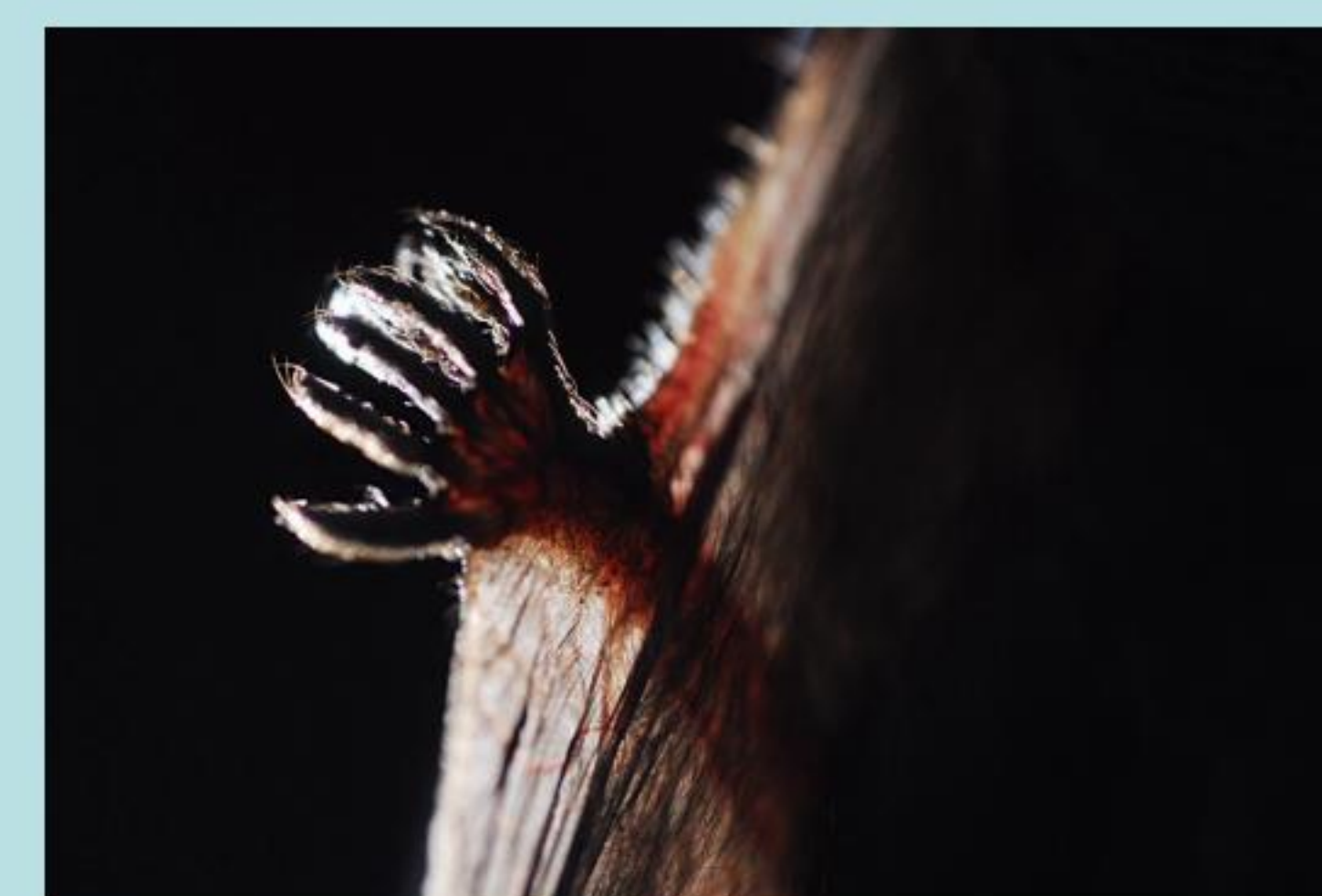
Scientific Name	Common Name	Provincial Status	COSEWIC Status/SARA Schedule
<i>Myotis keenii</i>	Keen's Myotis	Red	Data Deficient/3
<i>Lasiurus blossevillii</i>	Western Red Bat	Unknown	
<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	Spotted Bat	Blue	Special Concern/1
<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	Silver-haired Bat	Yellow	
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	Pallid Bat	Red	Threatened/1
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary Bat	Yellow	
<i>Myotis evotis</i>	Long-eared Myotis	Yellow	
<i>Myotis californicus</i>	Californian Myotis	Yellow	
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern Myotis	Blue	
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Townsend's Big-eared Bat	Blue	
<i>Myotis volans</i>	Long-legged Myotis	Yellow	
<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	Fringed Myotis	Blue	Data Deficient/3
<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>	Western Small-footed Myotis	Blue	
<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Little Brown Myotis	Yellow	
<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Big Brown Bat	Yellow	
<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	Yuma Myotis	Yellow	

Did you know that....

- A little brown myotis weighs less than five pennies, but may live over 35 years?
- There is evidence that BC's hoary bats may migrate as far as Mexico to winter?
- Biologists are still uncertain where most of BC's bat species hibernate?
- Bats make up 23.1% of all known mammals by species?



S. Ogle photo.



S. Ogle photo.

BCBAT publications

In 2009, members of BCBAT worked with the provincial Ministry of Environment to produce a two-page fact sheet on white-nose syndrome. This educational publication was distributed to biologists, naturalists' groups, wildlife rehabilitators, veterinarians, recreational caving groups and the general public. It is also available at our website at <http://bcbats.tripod.com/bcbat-publications.html>



Silver-haired bat
Lasionycteris noctivagans (with radiotransmitter).
Yellow-listed. L. Simpson photo.

Want to get involved?

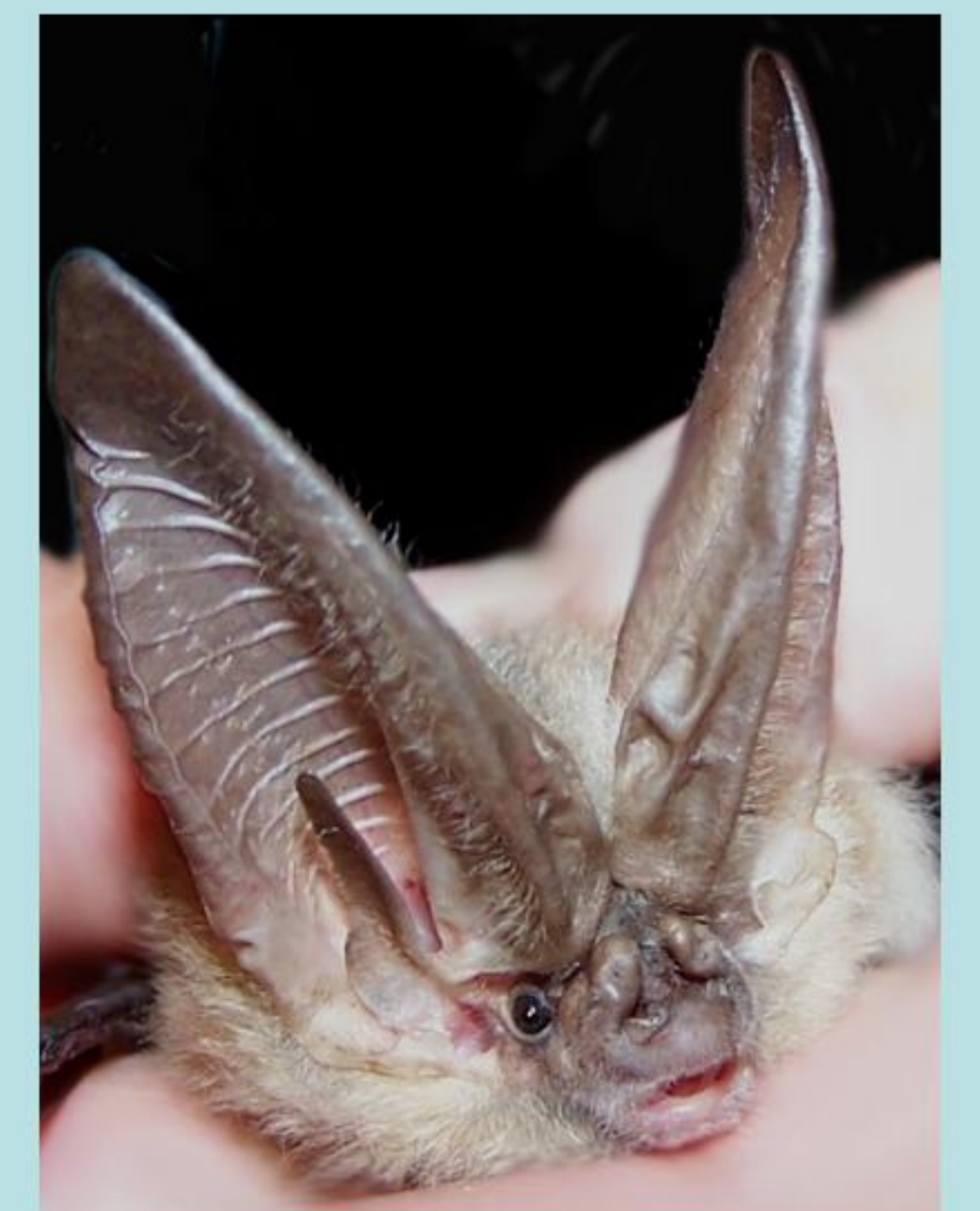
BCBAT meets several times a year, usually by teleconference. BCBAT will also hold a 'bat blitz' bat survey once or twice a year in a variety of locations throughout the province. If you'd like to get on the mailing list, please email bcbats@gmail.com



Bat biologists investigate a cave. S. Ogle photo.

Acknowledgments

We thank all of the photographers who contributed photos. Printing was donated by Keystone Wildlife Research Ltd.



Townsend's big-eared bat
Corynorhinus townsendii. Blue-listed. W. Alcock photo.

For further information

Please check out the BCBAT website at: <http://bcbats.tripod.com/>